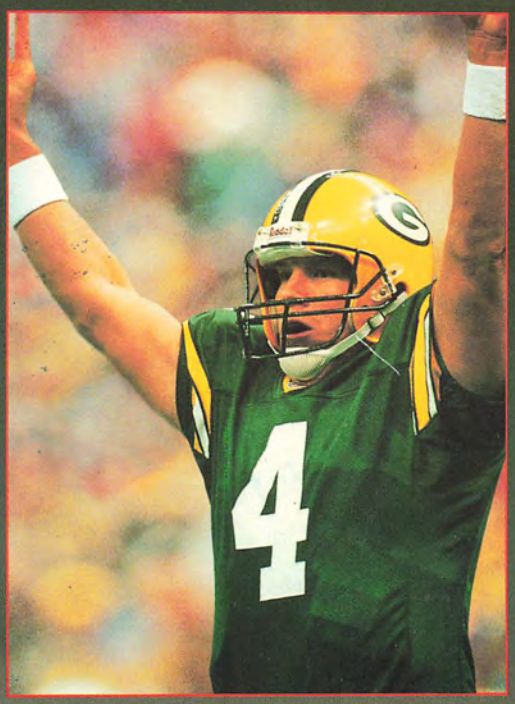
Green Bay Packers

1997 YEARBOOK

XXXI



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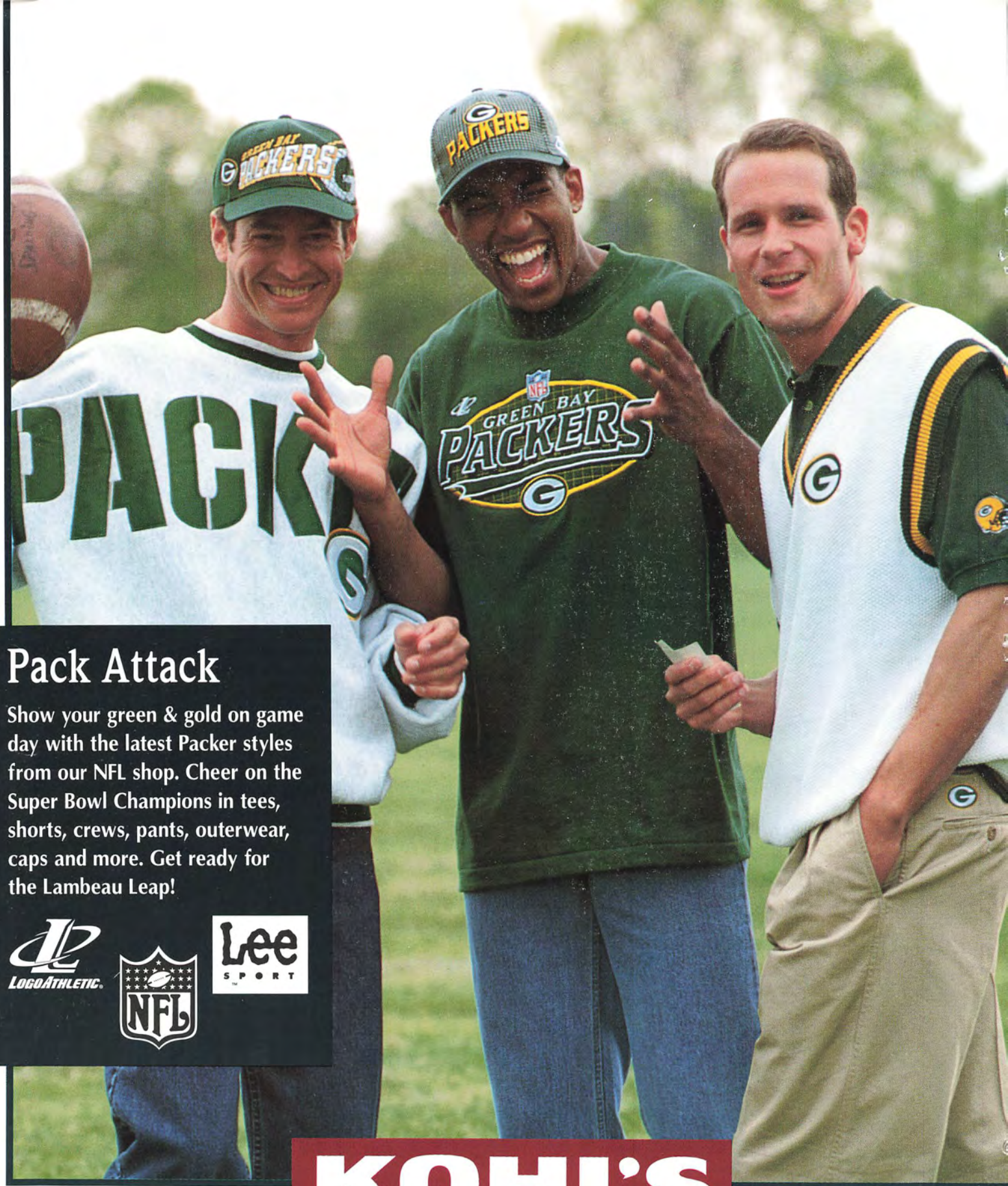

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GREEN BAY PACKE

Susan Lombardi Bickham, daughter of the late Vince Lombardi, surveys the blowup of the stamp which is being issued in his honor. The mockup of the stamp was unveiled in a ceremony prior to the Packers' game against Detroit, November 3, 1996.

An avid motorcyclist, Head Coach Mike Holmgren put his hobby to practical use in New Orleans, leading the way to practice for the Super Bowl on his "bike."

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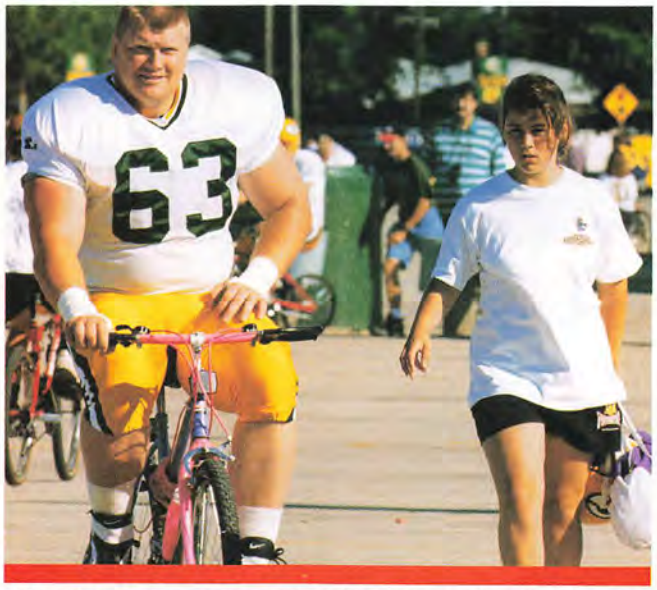
The Louisiana Superdome, site of the Packers' Super Bowl triumph over the New England Patriots, casts an eerie light over its surroundings in a seldom-pictured night view.



Adam Timmerman adopts a venerable custom, riding the bike of a proud young fan from the practice field to the dressing room.

Brett Favre, moving in as a "co-pilot" flashes the thumbs up sign from the cockpit as Packers' Northwest Air Lines charter prepares to depart on their trip to the Super Bowl.

THE PROOF: The Lombardi trophy, the silver symbol of the Packers' Super Bowl XXXI triumph in New Orleans, is flanked by the team's first two Super Bowl trophies, captured in SB I and SB II following the 1966 and 1967 seasons.

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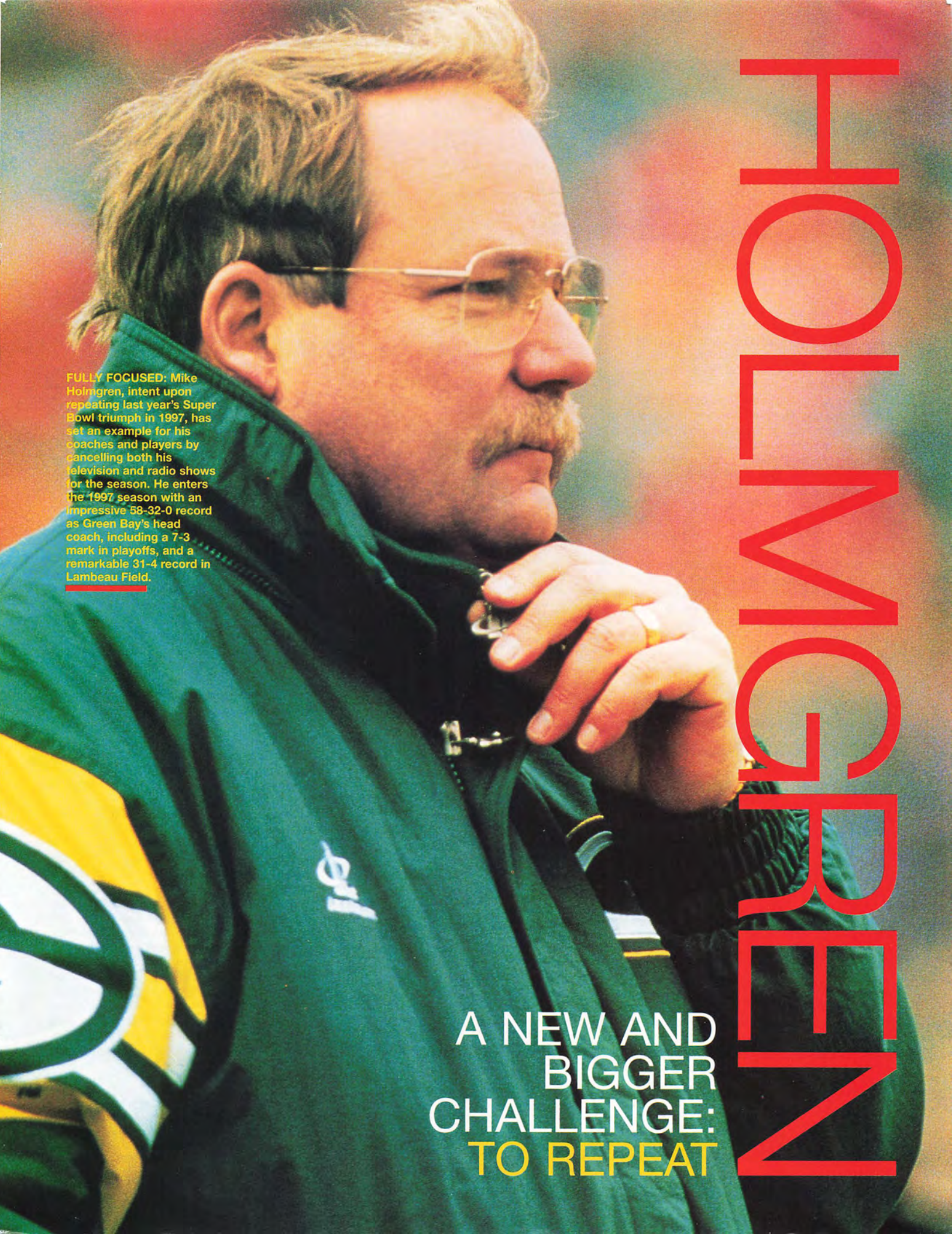


HOLMGREN

A NEW AND BIGGER CHALLENGE: TO REPEAT

FULLY FOCUSED: Mike Holmgren, intent upon repeating last year's Super Bowl triumph in 1997, has set an example for his coaches and players by cancelling both his television and radio shows for the season. He enters the 1997 season with an impressive 58-32-0 record as Green Bay's head coach, including a 7-3 mark in playoffs, and a remarkable 31-4 record in Lambeau Field.

BY LEE REMMEL
Editorial Director

HOLMGREN

The certified possessor of impeccable coaching credentials, Mike Holmgren is a rare expert on an equally rare "art"...that of winning Super Bowls.

As his personal record will readily show, he has been there and done that...no fewer than three times.

Now in the sixth year of a remarkable tenure, the Packers' history-making field leader thus is fully cognizant of the challenge which confronts him and his defending Super Bowl champions during the 1997 National Football League season.

Profoundly committed to the imposing task of repeating last January's decisive victory in SB XXXI, he knows precisely whereof he speaks in assessing the dimensions of the challenge at hand, having been offensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers and played a prominent role when they won back-to-back Super Bowls following the 1988 and '89 seasons, then triumphed on a third occasion in leading the Packers to victory over the New England Patriots in the NFL's ultimate showdown at New Orleans last January.

"I think winning it the first time is a very difficult task," he said while addressing the possibility from behind the well-ordered desk in his Lombardi Avenue office during a preseason appraisal. "(But) repeating—winning it a second time—requires even more work and dedication.

"As far as complacency is concerned, I think that is my number one job this year."

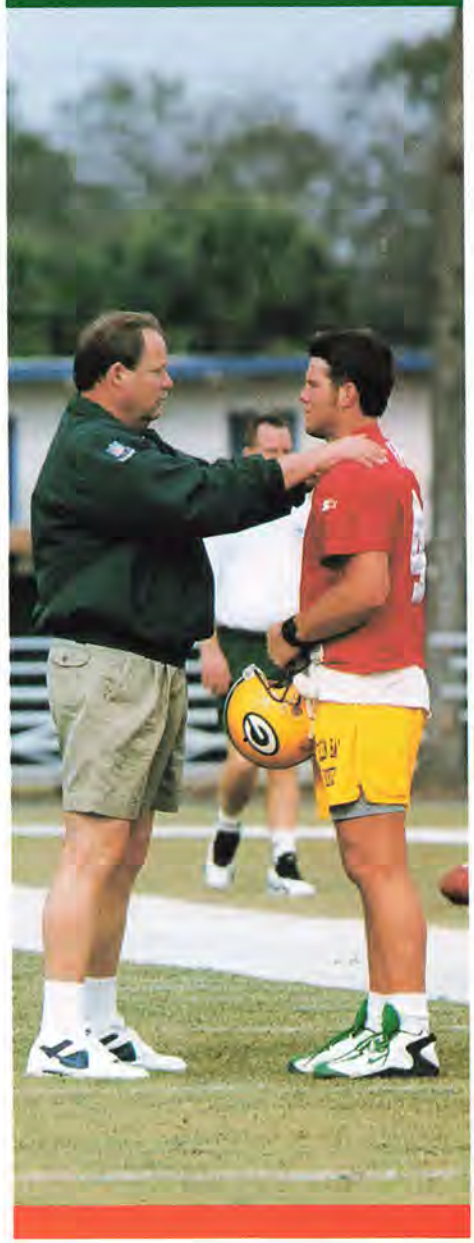
"So I think the challenge for the team, the coaches—and the head coach—this year is to understand, and make sure everyone else understands, that it will take even more sacrifices than it did last year.

"And I'm sure most of the guys are saying, 'I can't give any more.' But you can...we will...because that is the only chance we have of getting back there."

Early on, Holmgren set a pointed example—and assured of maximizing his contributions to the "project"—by announcing in March that he was cancelling his television and radio shows for the 1997 season to "re-direct my time and energies to achieving a Super Bowl repeat."

Elaborating on this somewhat surprising move—every Packers head coach has had a weekly, in-season TV show, for example, since the '60s—he explained, "I rearranged my schedule and some of the things I've been doing for five years, really, for two reasons.

"One was a personal, family reason. And, secondly, it was to send a message to my staff as well as the team that it takes more sacrifices—it takes even more to try to get back (to the Super Bowl).



"I did it...just in a small way...to send them a message that I was willing to do this...if it would get us there again."

Should his having been in a "repeat" situation with the 49ers help him bring about the desired result?

"I would only say yes," was the prompt reply. "And I think there'll probably be some things that I will take from that experience and use this year as far as motivation is concerned."

Holmgren noted, however, that there were different circumstances involved in his San Francisco experience.

"In that instance, there had been a head-coaching change," he noted. "And there were a number of position-coaching changes. As an example, I went from quarterback coach to (offensive) coordinator. And there seemed to be a lot of natural changes that took place that were enough to give it a newness, a freshness, that it almost wasn't like the same team from the previous year.

"In our case, it's different because we basically have the same team, basically have the same coaches other than Andy Reid now being the quarterback coach and Mike Sherman coming in to take over as tight ends coach (replacing Reid).

"And so the kind of automatic newness of change, which helps create an atmosphere where you feel maybe you can repeat without thinking about it a lot isn't there with us. We have to really concentrate on basically the same group and work it harder and play even better than we did last year. And we were good last year."

Although nearly a decade removed from the achievement, Holmgren remembers "repeating" with the 49ers as a relatively easy process.

"Actually, as I remember it, on our team in 1989, we just had a wonderful year," he said. "We were very good, very consistent. Joe Montana, I believe, was the MVP. He had his greatest statistical year. And we pile-drived through the playoffs...just crushed everybody.

"And I think there was something about the team that year. George Seifert was the first year head coach after being defensive coordinator for so many years and Bill Walsh had stepped down. And I think a lot of our older players—like the Ronnie Lotts and Joe Montanas and guys like that—really looked at it as having something to prove to themselves—that 'I can do this without Bill being here.' Because, you know, Bill was an awesome coach and brought these guys into the

COACHLY COUNSEL: Head Coach Mike Holmgren imparts some football philosophy to his quarterback Brett Favre, during a Super Bowl week practice in New Orleans.

league and won a couple Super Bowls. Now he wasn't there and there was a bit of a feeling in the media that, 'Well, now, we'll slide down hill.' And I think the players came together and said, 'That's not going to happen.'"

Returning to the challenge at hand, the Packers' towering headmaster readily acknowledged what he sees as his primary responsibility in bringing about a "repeat."

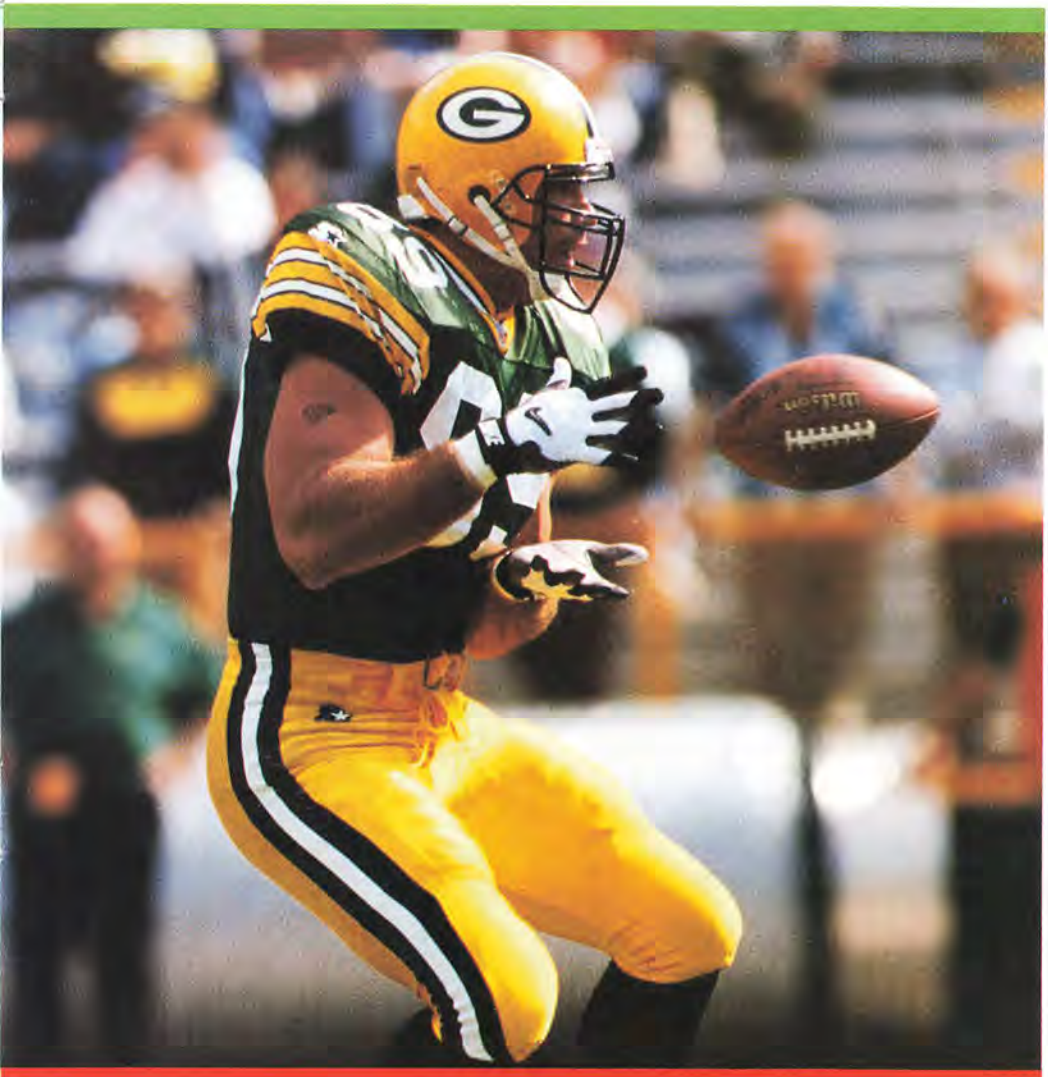
Addressing the possibility his players could be less hungry than they were a year ago, he said, "As far as complacency is concerned, I think that is my number one job this year. If you remember last year, I thought it was to create the same sort of unselfish commitment on the team, which still will have to be re-created every year.

"But I thought my number one job—as a head coach—is not diagramming plays...or even calling plays. It's to make sure the players stay as hungry as they were last year. And if you have enough infusion, I think, of change—new players with your team—that helps.

"But for it to **work**," Holmgren said, emphasizing the word 'work,' "to give yourself a chance, your veteran players who are the leaders of your team have to demonstrate that hunger to the rest of the team...If they don't, it's awfully difficult. If they do, now you've got something really good going."

Dealing with another concern, the probability that every opponent will be taking dead aim at the Green and Gold because they are pro football's reigning champions, he observed, "As far as the schedule is concerned—everyone pointing at us—I don't think that changes much over the years.

"Once we got to be a playoff caliber team, I think..." Holmgren didn't finish the sentence but the implication was obvious. He added, "Certainly, nothing ever changes within your division. That's always going to be the same.



"I think playing the Super Bowl champions, though, has an effect on a team. It becomes a very big game on their schedule. At the same time, that can work to your advantage because they know they're coming in to play the Super Bowl champion. So the schedule, to me, is always difficult...You've got to be ready every year...every game."

Before bidding farewell to his players for the offseason, following the historic triumph in SB XXXI, the Packers' demanding field leader had cautioned them about another potential impediment—permitting offseason distractions to diminish their chances of repeating. As he now looked to the season ahead, he expressed satisfaction—on balance—with how they had handled the myriad opportunities which had come their way.

"I think, again, this is something I took from my experience at San Francisco—that when you win a Super Bowl, you know, people come out of the woodwork—with deals, and with opportunities for players—some of them good, some of them not so good," he said. "And I want the players to enjoy the fruits of their labor. But, at the same time—while they're doing that—they cannot forget what got them there the first time. And that can be a real problem.

"My sense is, after being through some minicamps, that the guys have handled it pretty well. They've probably been a little busier in those areas than I would like them to be," Holmgren admitted, "but, all in all, I think they've handled it pretty well."

"You've got to be ready every year...every game."

Asked if he senses greater confidence and more maturity in his team following last year's ultimate success, he replied, "Well, I think we were a pretty confident team last year. Now, if we could have greater confidence, I'm not sure that's possible. I think, basically, it's a pretty confident group.

"But the maturity level, yeah, there's something to that. And each year that you keep your core guys together, that really makes you a better football team because situations come up that are tough. You can lose a game when you think you should have won it...Maybe you have a little bit of a problem in the locker room. Whatever...whatever...It may be somebody all of a sudden writes something

Mark Chmura, rebounding from a sprained arch, which had sidelined him for the previous three games, returned to action against Denver, and proceeded to snare four passes for a season-high 70 yards.

about you— something that you don't like. And then the maturity level of your team helps you get through those rough spots."

The conversation turned to the physical aspects of the game and the key performers and areas involved in the bid to repeat.

—Quarterback Brett Favre: Could he possibly have a third consecutive—and record—MVP season?

"I think so...I think so...I think the mark of a great quarterback is consistency and his ability to do it year after year. And keeping in mind when you talk about great quarterbacks in this league—and you're talking about Dan Marino, John Elway...Jim Kelly, who just retired—they all have played 12, 13, 14 years...15 in some cases. And Brett has only played 6 years. And so, hopefully, the bulk of his career is ahead of him. And so I think it's possible...But, again, those types of awards—as great as they are—are really in essence team awards. A lot of people have to do that.

"It's just in the beginning of his career. He's just starting really. And if he can maintain it and keep his health, and all those types of things, avoid injury...there's really no telling what he can accomplish in this game."

—Defensive end Reggie White: Can he, at 35, continue to perform at his customary high level?

"I think he can, as long as we're smart on how we play him. I think...as players get older—Reggie White included—they get a little slower. The great thing about Reggie and the thing that allows him to play at a high level is his will...his heart...and just the type of person he is. We just have to be smart in how we play him—how many snaps in a game...how we practice him in getting ready for the season...those types of things...And that's coaching strategy."

—Tight end Mark Chmura (and the structure of his role, now that Keith Jackson has retired): "I think he has a chance to go to the Pro Bowl again...The beauty of what Keith Jackson and Mark Chmura did was the unselfishness that it showed to the whole team—that two Pro Bowl players...excellent players...both starters—both playing and working well with one another. That was a real healthy thing for our team.

"Now with Mark and Jeff Thomason—Jeff will be our second tight end—we won't treat it the same way. Mark will be out there most of the time. Jeff will be in on two-tight end situations. So Mark, if he stays healthy, should have a chance to go to the Pro Bowl each year."

—Running back Dorsey Levens (whether he is likely to have a bigger role, based on his late-season surge last year): "I'm not sure we'll expand it a whole lot more. I think the combination of Edgar (Bennett) and Dorsey and William Henderson there—and how I think all three of those guys were pretty fresh at the end of the year because of how we used them—I think that's a pretty efficient way to use the talent.

"I feel real good about our team."

"Edgar Bennett is a fine player, Dorsey Levens is a fine player, William Henderson should carry the ball a little bit more. So I don't really see their roles changing dramatically, because that was a good thing for us last year and I would not want to change this...And I would not argue the fact that Dorsey had a wonderful last five games last year."

—Rookie placekicker Brett Conway: "He's doing fine...I think there's a lot of pressure on him because of what a fine kicker Chris (Jacke) was over the years. But he's the type of guy that has handled it very well. He's a good kicker—I mean he's really a good kicker and I would expect him to have a lengthy career here. (But) you know, I mean he's not going to make every kick...no one does...and when he misses one, we'll deflect that the best way we can, because it's going to happen. But I'm really pleased with how he's doing. I mean, he's a good guy, people will like him...He will win games for us."

—The Offensive Line: "Last year at this time, I had some real questions about the offensive line. I really didn't know. I knew about most of the other things, but that was one I had a question about. This year, I don't have that question. I think we have good depth in the offensive line—we're more solid there than we were last year."

—Can No. 1 Draft Pick Ross Verba push incumbent John Michels for the starting job at left tackle?

"It's too early to tell. That's pretty hard. I think John has improved in leaps and bounds as well, so I would think it would be pretty tough to get John out of that left tackle position right now....But we'll see what happens...John's worked very hard to get bigger and stronger, which was one thing we knew he had to do. And so, I don't see John Michels giving up that position. But, you know, that's what training camp is all about."

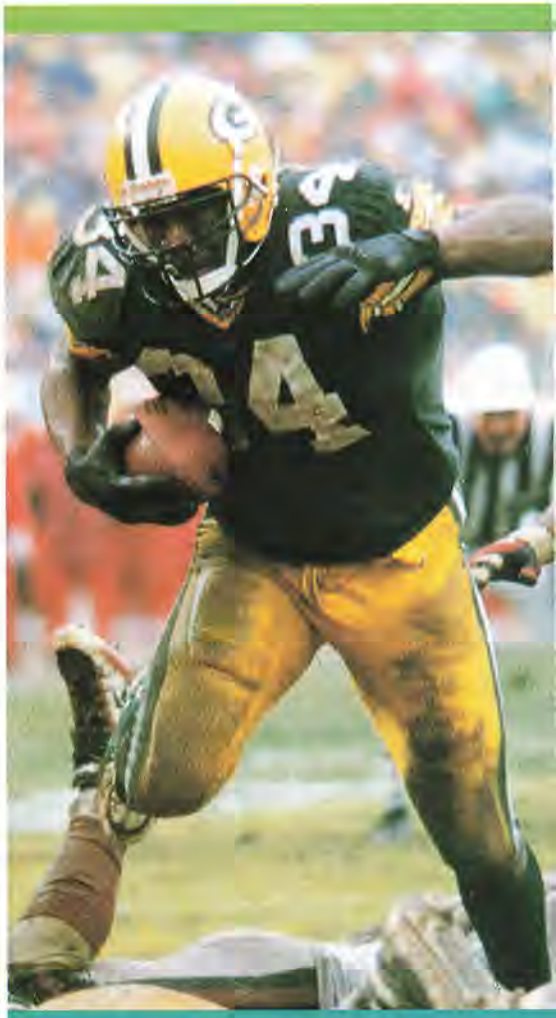
—Wide receiver: "It'll be very competitive. Wide receiver will be very, very competitive. Again, not necessarily for the starting positions, because the team—as I have said—has changed in five years. But certainly, to round out the roster and give you your depth, that's where the competition's going to be most noticeable, and it is a healthy situation.

"You know, when Qadry (Ismail) came on board, we have another starter. So you have (Antonio) Freeman, you have (Robert) Brooks (expected to return as the starting flanker in the "Monday Night Football" season opener September 1 after making a remarkable recovery from a major knee injury), you have Qadry, who's started in the league. You have (Derrick) Mayes, who is an upcoming young guy. You have (Don) Beebe, who's started in the league and been very productive. You have (Terry) Mickens, who is a valuable special teams player and a good receiver who started a couple games for us last year...And then (Bill) Schroeder's coming off a World League where his team tears it up over there. So it'll be an interesting thing. A lot of that will depend on injury...and special teams."

—The Defense: (With only one scheduled personnel change—Gabe Wilkins for the retired Sean Jones at right end—can it play better than it did in '96, setting an NFL record for fewest touchdowns allowed):

"Well, it's a great goal to shoot for. I mean, they were outstanding. But, you know, every player on that team, every coach—I've challenged them to think about ways—and individually—on how you will be better than you were last season. And if everyone is thinking about that correctly, then—as a team, when we come together, yeah, there's a chance we can improve."

Edgar Bennett, kept fresh as a result of being spelled on a regular basis by Dorsey Levens, finished the 1996 season with a career high 4.0-yards rushing average (899 yards in 222 attempts).



Overall, Holmgren describes himself as comfortable with the personnel at hand.

"I feel real good about our team," he said. "The big thing, as it is every year, is injury. If you can avoid it, first of all. And then, if you can't how fast the guys can get back. Or, as in Robert Brooks' case, as an example, we lost him for the season. So how do you have someone to replace him? And those are always going to be key factors. But, all in all, we have good personnel. And I'm pleased with how the team's coming together."

At the same time, the Packers coach acknowledged there have been significant departures from the roster in the offseason.

"You have Sean Jones, Desmond (Howard), Keith Jackson, Andre Rison—I'll throw him in there—and Chris Jacke," he observed. "Those five guys were important, very important, parts of our team last year.

"Now, in free agency, you're going to lose some. In Keith and Sean's case, they retired, so I wasn't totally surprised by that. But I think we have players to fill in those positions and do fine on the football field. Where I will miss some of those guys more than on the field is in the locker room—their leadership...the things we've been talking about...their maturity."

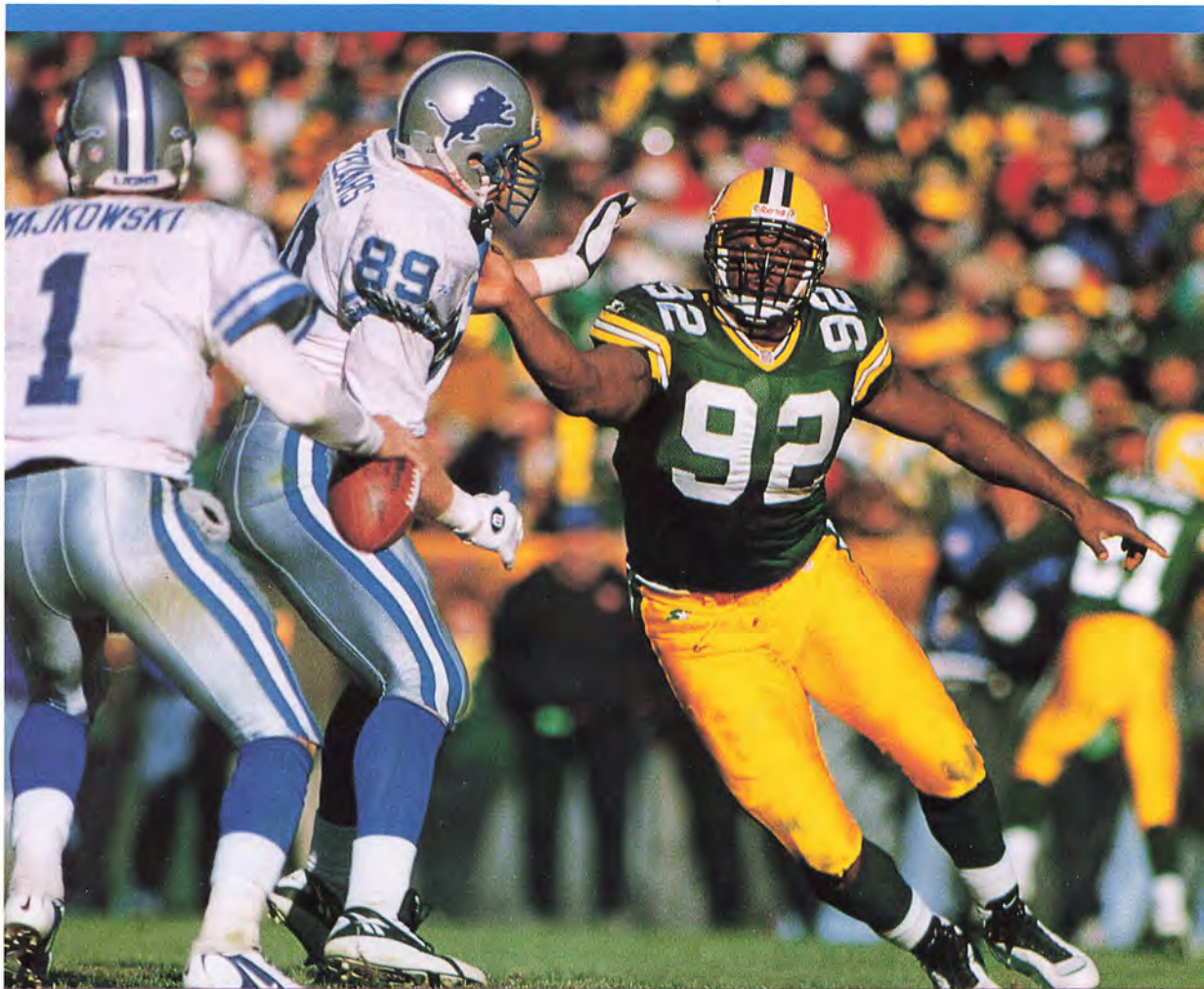
Personnel aside, does he have any concern about having only one home game in December on the '97 schedule?

"I didn't like that too much," Holmgren admitted. "I thought that was a quirk of scheduling, if you will, that was not particularly fair. First of all, to have two three-game road trips, like we did last year, and they (NFL officials) kind of said that shouldn't happen any more. And then, now, we get another three-game road trip this year—and not only do we have it, but we have it in December, which takes away one of the advantages we have in our stadium in December. So I don't know exactly how that happened, but I didn't particularly like that, no."

How, on the subject of home field advantage, does he explain the Packers' spectacular record in Lambeau Field under his direction (currently 18 in a row and 31-4 overall)?

"It's a real credit to the players, obviously, and our fans," Holmgren rejoined. "We can really thank our fans for helping. I think that's one of the things we set out to do when we first started here—to make 'Lambeau,' our home field, a difficult place to play. We were going to win at home. And, prior to 1992, the home record here hadn't been what it should be. And so, I just think that the team—coupled with our fans—everyone believes we should win the games here—and that's half the battle."

Reggie White continued to be a force on defense in 1996, leading the team in sacks (8.5) and earning Pro Bowl honors at defensive end for record eleventh consecutive year.



Holmgren, it should be noted, is emphatic about the significance of the fans' role in the lustrous Lambeau record.

"We play a lot of teams in domes and I've always said I thought that the dome teams had a tremendous home field advantage because of noise," he explained. "And our noise level, and how our fans have gotten into it—and the intimacy of our stadium—I think makes it difficult for a team to come in here, if we're playing our game."

Speaking of home field, the monolithic San Franciscan admits he welcomes the opportunity, at long last, to host the Cowboys (November 23) after having to make seven consecutive appearances in Dallas over recent seasons.

"Yeah, I think that should have happened eventually," he said. "They beat us down there every time we went down there and they beat us fair and square...But, again, I think if you ask any coach, the home field advantage in this league is a big thing. And so we'll see. They're still a great football team. And now we have to go out and do it here."

Looking back to Super Bowl XXXI and the tumultuous welcome the Packers received upon their return from New Orleans, Holmgren was still marveling at the dimensions of the reception, which found an estimated 200,000 fans lining the parade route throughout Green Bay and suburbs to greet the players and coaches, waving and shaking hands from open buses.

"That was an incredible thing," he said. "And, again, you couldn't help—even though I did get a little chilly during the parade—you couldn't help but feel the love and the warmth for the football team from our fans. Warmth seems like a screwy word in that respect (the wind chill registered a frigid zero to a minus-10 degrees during the three-hour parade)...And then to come into this stadium and see the stadium full after people had been waiting for hours...with little kids...and still that type of feeling...it was really overwhelming...It was unbelievable."

Had he warmed up since?

"You know what, I don't think I have...I think I've had a cold since then."

There must be, it was suggested, a great sense of accomplishment, over having been the catalyst in the '96 Packers' return of the Super Bowl trophy to Green Bay for the first time in three decades.

"Yeah, certainly," Holmgren acknowledged. "(But) honestly I haven't had enough time—because of the nature of this offseason—to really think about it as much as I would have liked.

"I was happy for a lot of people. First of all, I was happy for Bob Harlan (team president and CEO)...Ron Wolf...and everybody who has been here a long time—people that have been here through the Lombardi Era.

"And one of the reasons other than the fact that I was offered the position—one of the reasons I accepted the position here—was the appeal to build from Point A to a possible chance in a Super Bowl. And we did that—and I say 'we'—my coaches, the organization—we did that in five years, and accomplished our goal.

"And I think, regardless of the business you're in—when you set goals, work hard—and through a lot of team effort and, really unselfishness, accomplish that goal, there's something very gratifying about it....And I don't think we're wrong to feel good about what we did. And I think we set our goals high, and we reached them. And I think the whole organization can feel good about that."

In logical sequence, the inevitable question next arose. With a "repeat" as the ultimate reward, can his team maintain the unselfish attitude it displayed en route to winning SB XXXI.

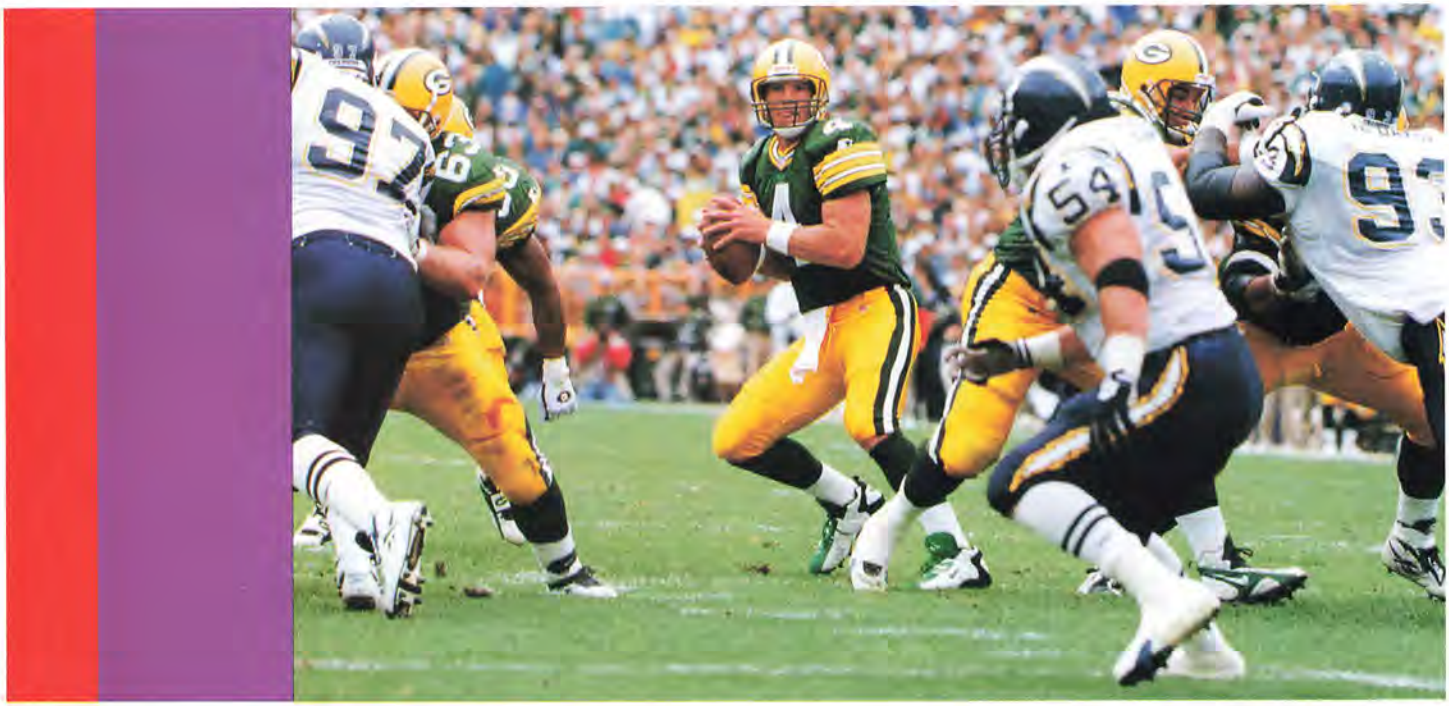
"I think it can," Holmgren replied, without a hint of hesitation. " I really believe that now, the attitude of the football team, the feeling of the football team, is right where it should be...And there is no reason to think that we'll lose that.

"I think they feel they're winners—they've come from behind in games...They feel the fourth quarter is theirs...they feel a tremendous advantage at home.

"All of those things have been built up over the past five years...And I think we should be able to maintain that.

"I guess if I had to name my number one concern this year coming into camp...it would be making sure they maintain their hunger to do it again...That's going to be my whole thrust...."

The trade for quarterback Brett Favre—Ron Wolf's first major move after hiring Mike Holmgren as head coach—was the undisputed catalyst in rebuilding the Packers' franchise. Favre, the NFL's Most Valuable Player the past two years, has led Green Bay to five consecutive winning seasons—for the first time since the 60's—and a Super Bowl victory.



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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PACKERS FANS:

The warmth and magnitude of your welcome upon the team's return from its great victory in Super Bowl XXXI, in happy contrast to a very cold day, is something that all of us in the Packers organization will long and fondly remember.

It was another remarkable demonstration of the loyalty and support you have historically given *your* team—the classic kind of loyalty and support that long has set Packers fans apart from all others. You are truly unique and we salute you.

We also applaud your exemplary conduct throughout the homecoming parade, as well as the incredible patience and enthusiasm displayed by the 60,000 fans who gathered in frigid Lambeau Field for the "welcome home" program which followed. To your great credit, there were no unpleasant incidents to mar a happy and memorable occasion.

In the process, you have become role models for fans in all sports across the nation to emulate in welcoming home their future champions. You have set a lofty standard and, for that, we are both very proud and extremely grateful.

Again, our heartfelt thanks to you for making "Return to Titletown" all that it deserved to be.

Bob Harlan

BOB HARLAN
President & CEO
Green Bay Packers

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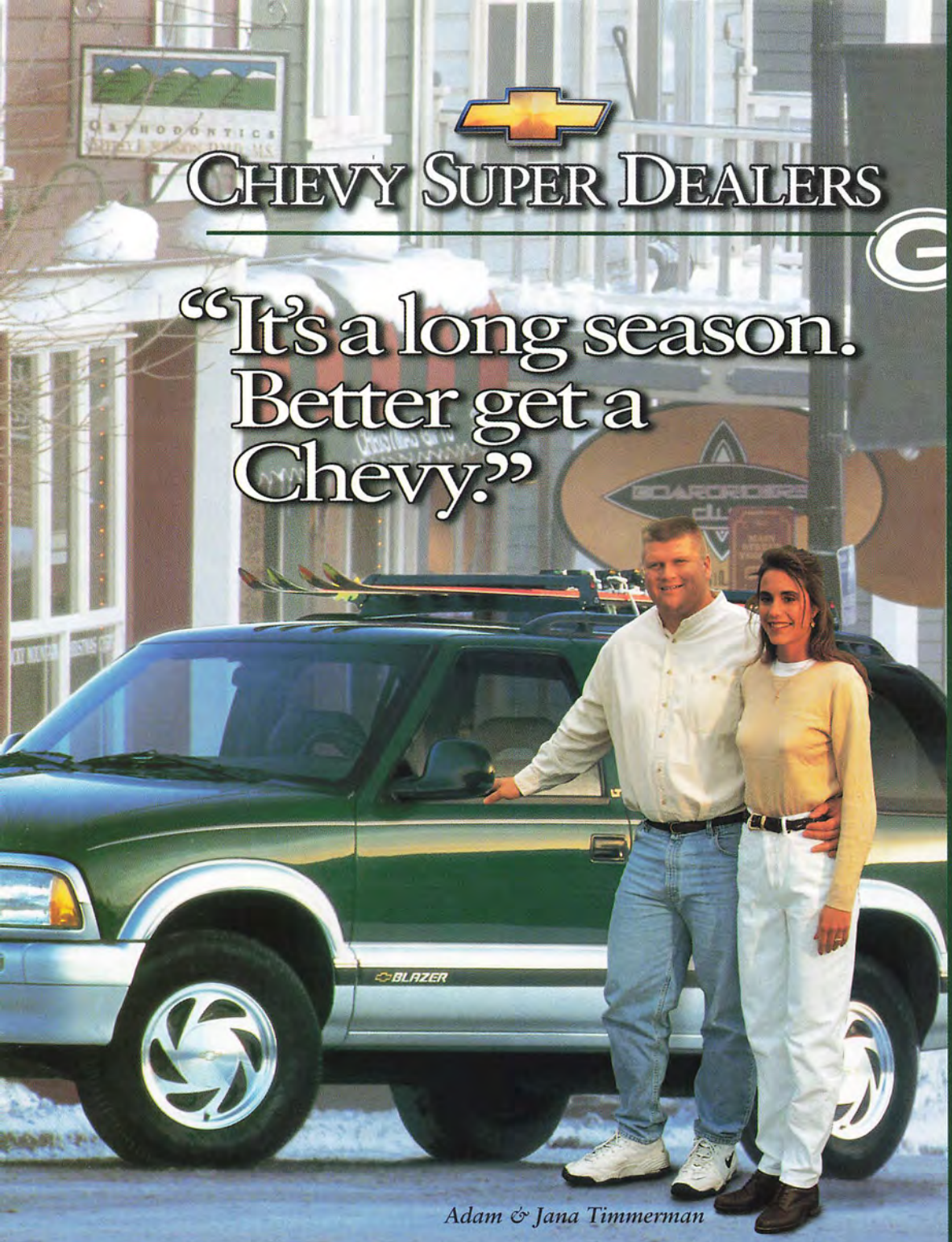

Adam & Jana Timmerman

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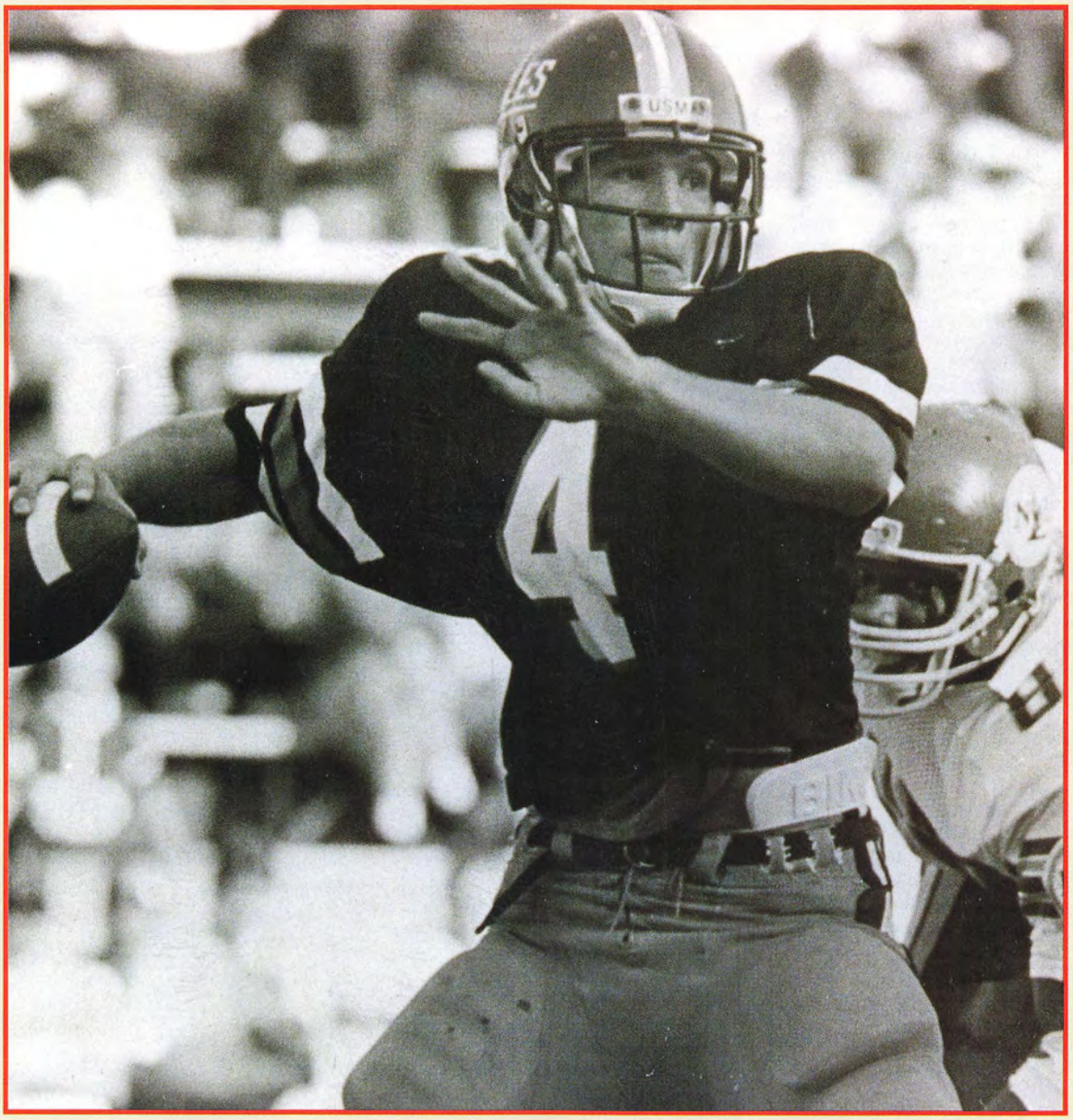


BRETT FAVRE:

HE'S UNIQUE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

BRETT FAVRE:

HE'S UNIQUE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

BY TIM FROBERG
Marinette Eagle Herald

You won't find any multiplex cinemas, shopping malls or even a red light in Kiln, Mississippi, population 1,262. Not that Brett Favre ever gave a rip. He's always been proud of where he came from.

Where the NFL's two-time Most Valuable Player came from involves more than just location. His journey from small-town dreamer to NFL superstar has taken him from Mullett Bowl to Pro Bowl. From Crab Bowl to Super Bowl. From prep quarterback who averaged two passes per game to football's ultimate playmaker.

Favre's odyssey might seem like Yellow Brick Road stuff to some, but Oz never would have given Favre an appointment. Brett already had an arm powerful enough to fling a football over the rainbow. He had the brains to eventually master one of pro football's most complex offenses. And the courage to play a key college football game just 24 days after major surgery.

What launched Favre to the top of the pro football world was nothing magical. It was commitment, discipline, confidence and the wisdom to use all three and maximize the kind of rare talent that can make the extraordinary appear ordinary. Along the way he's retained a charismatic, free-spirited personality which has made him a cool field general in the heat of battle. It's also enabled him to complete as many practical jokes as passes.

The fact that the game's biggest star grew up in one of the smallest towns imaginable is an irony almost too perfect. Kiln (pronounced `Kill') has become a virtual shrine to Favre in recent years—something you immediately notice when you enter the city limits and see a huge sign proclaiming "Welcome to Kiln, Miss., Home of Brett Favre."

Growing up in Kiln—located off the Gulf of Mexico about 60 miles northeast of New Orleans—wasn't much different than Andy Griffith's Mayberry. There was lots of fishing and swimming in Rotten Bayou located behind the Favre house and never mind the alligators that have eliminated four Favre family dogs over the years.

"I couldn't imagine growing up in a big city like New York, LA or even Jackson, Mississippi which seemed like a huge city to us," Brett said. "I pretty much grew up on the water. Every time a hurricane hit—which was two or three times a summer it seemed—the power would get knocked out for three or four days. So we'd get a bar of soap and bathe in the river, then float down on inner tubes. The gators don't bother you unless you get into one of their nests or something. You've just got to grow up down there."

Sports dominated the Favre's lives. Irvin was a highly successful varsity football coach at Hancock North Central High for 26 years and also coached many of the same high-school kids in a summer baseball program. Brett tagged along to all the games and practices, tossing footballs along the sideline and shagging fly balls in the outfield.

"That whole Gulf Coast is a very sports-oriented area and it was a great way to grow up," said Brett, the second-oldest of four children raised by Irvin and Bonita Favre. "I was always the bat boy for my dad's teams and I got to hang around all the high school kids as a youngster which I thought was pretty cool. I loved sports and I was always around it. Now, my daughter (Brittany) lays on the couch and plays video games and watches TV—which is fine, but I'd much rather grow up the way I did."

Brett and his older brother Scott—both high-spirited and mischievous—were a handful for Irvin, who loved his kids, but kept them in line with the traditional southern "spare the rod, spoil the child" philosophy that was standard operating procedure at the time. Trouble always seemed to find Brett. And when it didn't, he sometimes went looking for it.

"God, it seemed like every day we got a whipping," Brett said. "I had my butt torn up a bunch. We were bad. We were into everything. One time I shot my brother on the chin with a BB gun. Got whipped with a black rubber hose for that.

"Another time my dad told us not to ever go swimming at this creek which was dirty and dangerous with sharp rocks and everything. Sure enough, me and my stupid brother went down there and went swimming in our underwear. This car passed by and who do you think it was? Yeah, it was my dad. He whipped us in the middle of the road for that. "But we deserved it and I think that discipline made us good people and hard workers. To this day I've never whipped my daughter, though, because I know how it feels."

Not that Brett was a hooligan. He just had that devil-may-care Tom Sawyer attitude—with the freckles to match. His fourth-grade teacher, Billy Ray Dedeaux, recalls Brett as feisty and funny, but never a real headache to deal with.

"He was very playful and liked to do jokes, but he was a good student—an A to B student—and never showed me any disrespect," said Dedeaux, a soft-spoken man who received the NFL's Teacher of the Month award for September of 1994 after being nominated by Favre. "Even today when he sees me, he'll call me `Mr. Dedeaux,' instead of `Billy Ray' like my other students call me."

Gaye Davis, currently a special education teacher at Hancock North Central High, says that Brett's lively personality hasn't changed much since childhood.

"He was always such a sweet boy, such an outgoing person," she said. "Everyone just loved him and there weren't too many strangers to him because he knew everyone. He was just a super kid and still is. I see him now and then and he always has a big hug for me. He's the one who encouraged me to go back to college and become a teacher."

Favre's friendly nature gave way to competitive inferno once he stepped onto a football field or baseball diamond. He would imagine that he was Roger Staubach or Archie

Manning picking apart a secondary and the word 'defeat' wasn't part of his vocabulary.

"He was always so competitive," said Dedeaux. "The kids would play touch football on the playgrounds and we had a no-tackle rule, but I had to paddle him a couple of times for tackling students. He didn't like that touch football stuff." The practical jokes started about that time. Brett became as adept with a can of shaving cream in his hand as he did with a football.

"I'm good with shaving cream, ice, those atomic bombs," said Brett. "The one that I still do today is take heat—whether it's Ben Gay or something—and put it in people's underwear. It's simple, but one of the all-time greats. I was always the class clown. I guess because I wanted all the attention. As a fifth-grader I'd get hit in Pop Warner football and wouldn't even be hurt, but I'd lie on the field and act hurt so people would sympathize. Now, I'm just totally the opposite on the field. But I still like the attention and like to loosen the guys up. I hate people who are stuffy and don't laugh."

Life was slow and easy in the bayou town—until Brett stepped onto the mound in baseball. Then things speeded up and often spun out of control. Brett was always much bigger than kids his own age, and even in Little League he was an intimidating combination of Nolan Ryan and Mitch "The Wild Thing" Williams.

"If you could see the ball you had a chance to hit it—if it didn't hit you," said Casey Davis, who played Little League against Favre and later became a prep baseball and football teammate. "Believe me, nobody had the guts to dig in against Brett."

By the time Brett reached high school, his fastball was being clocked in the mid-90s, but the strike zone remained as elusive as Barry Sanders on a sweep. Brett was also an outstanding shortstop and a major home run threat.

"His fastball was unbelievable, almost 100 miles per hour," said Casey Davis, now the manager of a sporting goods store in Mobile, Ala. "You didn't know where it was going and guys were scared to death of him. He hit one guy and knocked him out cold. He'd crack helmets and cups. He busted one of our catcher's cups and put him in the hospital. He was a home run hitter and a very, very good shortstop who had a lot of range and didn't make many errors.

"I really feel he had the talent to be like Deion Sanders and play both baseball and football. When he first went to Southern Miss the baseball coach was begging him to go out."

Football, though, was Brett's destiny. Playing for head coach Irvin Favre at Hancock North Central High, Brett not only quarterbacked, but played free safety and handled the punting and place kicking duties. Brett, however, put up modest passing numbers since Irvin was a run-oriented coach who ran a Wishbone offense Brett's junior year and a Wing-T his senior year. "We'd throw maybe two or three times a game," said Brett, who played in such prestigious area events as the Mullet and Crab Bowls during his junior high and prep career, "I think I threw for about 400 yards my junior year and 380 my senior year. I didn't like it at the time, but looking back I respect it. He wouldn't change because of who I was and what I could do. He said, 'Hell, I'm gonna do it the way I've always done it and that's the way it's gonna be.' It was hard-nosed football and taught me a lot about discipline and the entire game of football."

Dr. Stanley Jordan, a childhood friend and teammate of Brett's, recalls him as being a productive and hard-hitting player, but no superstar.

"He was a good football player, a key player, but not the star that he's risen to," said Jordan, a chiropractor in Wiggins, Miss. "Obviously, he had talent, but the offensive design didn't allow him to do much. He was always tough, a big hitter on defense and a great leader. You never heard him complain about not throwing the ball more because we were pretty effective running the ball.

"No one could have imagined that he would have risen to the magnitude that he has. We're still good friends, but I'm in awe every time I watch him play now. I get goose bumps."

Both Irvin (driver's education) and Bonita (special education) were teachers at Hancock, and Brett rode back and forth to school each day with his parents. Football was a 24-hour network in the Favre's world that Brett couldn't tune out in the car or at the dinner table.

"When we rode home, I'd hear nothing but football from my dad," said Brett. "How I had to lift weights and run. Eventually, I realized, 'Yeah, he's right.' To this day, I don't need people to push me to work out and I think it dates back to the way he pushed me. Of course, I'd get pissed when he'd bitch and bitch at me in front of the other guys. They would laugh, but those guys aren't laughing now."

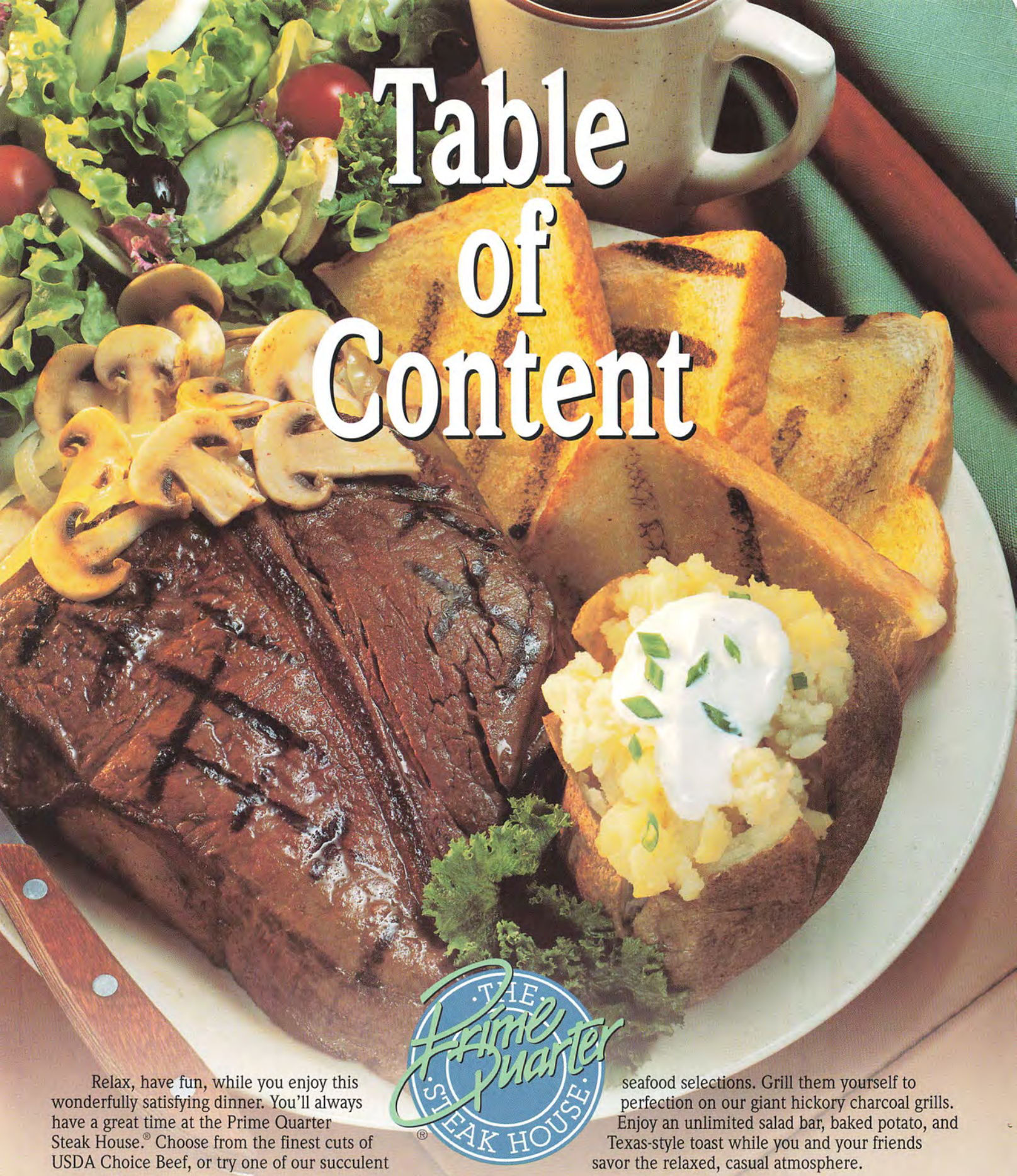
Irvin was seldom accused of nepotism. In fact, teammates Jordan and Davis say that he drove Brett the hardest of anyone on the team.

"He was much tougher on Brett," said Casey Davis. "Coach Favre was a tough coach, period. But he was very fair. You had a job to do and he wanted it done right."

Jordan added: "Coach Favre was 10 times harder on both Brett and Scott (Favre). But Brett handled that really well. He never let that bother him."

Brett never let too much bother him, and never had a tough time getting a date. He began seeing Deanna Tynes, who was a grade ahead of him, when he was 13. It was the start of a lengthy off-and-on courtship that would eventually led to nuptials.

"She was there way before I threw my first touchdown pass," Brett said. "She was there when I didn't have a pot to you know what. We'd go out and she'd have to drive because I didn't have my license yet. We'd go get a bucket of Popeyes Chicken and catch a movie. The whole night would be a grand total of like seven bucks."



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BRETT FAVRE:

HE'S UNIQUE ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Like Brett, Deanna was athletic—a girls' basketball player at the school. Like Brett she had a strong will and wouldn't accept failure.

"Our personalities are very similar," Favre said. "We like the same things, the same foods, but sometimes it gets us in trouble because we're both hard-headed and stubborn. If you're too much alike you just want to pull each other's hair out at times. But I married way over my head. She's almost too perfect."

Brett's passing numbers, however, were far from perfect. Because of his limited passing attempts, he wasn't a hot college prospect. In fact, Southern Mississippi was the only Division I school to offer him a scholarship and it came just a few days before the national signing period when a few prospects turned down Golden Eagles' offers. Favre was initially projected as a free safety.

Mark McHale, currently an offensive line coach at the University of Louisville, was the one who recruited Favre. He had never heard of Favre, but decided to check him out after hearing stories from various coaches in the region about Favre's rocket arm.

"I asked for tape on Brett and all I saw was a big, slow white kid handing the ball off to a tailback," recalled McHale. "The first game I watched him he threw two passes. I came back for a second game because Irvin (Favre) promised me he was going to open it up. Well, he did. He went from two passes to five. But he threw one where you just went, 'Wow, what an arm,' and I had been impressed watching him throw on the sideline. He was as cocky as he could be, but not in a negative way."

Southern Miss, however, was running an option offense at the time and wasn't seeking a pocket passer.

"I couldn't sell Brett as a dropback quarterback because we had been running the option with Reggie Collier," said McHale. "So I sold him as a safety. I told Jim Carmody (then Southern Mississippi's head coach) that he'd be starting at safety his sophomore year because he was as tough as nails. It was a way to get him into the program, but I knew that arm was something special."

Said Favre: "I just wanted to play and felt very fortunate that someone even offered me a scholarship."

Once Carmody saw Favre wing the football, Brett's days as a defensive player were over. Collier had completed his collegiate eligibility and since Southern Miss faced an upgraded schedule, Carmody and McHale—the team's offensive coordinator and line coach—went to more of a standard offense with a drop-back passing game.

It didn't take Favre long to seize the quarterback's reins. As a freshman, he was inserted in the third quarter of the team's third game against Tulane and guided the Golden Eagles on three scoring drives to claim a job he never surrendered. Favre led Southern Miss to 29 victories over the next four years, including two bowl triumphs. He established school records for passing yards (8,193), passing attempts (1,234), completions (656), passing percentage (53.0) and touchdowns (55) with just 35 interceptions.

"He was all arm when he first came in," said McHale. "Those little five-yard swing passes, he'd be knocking the running backs over because he threw too hard. Balls would be bouncing off receiver's shoulder pads. He had to learn to take a little off the ball. Boy, that sucker had an arm! A golden arm!"

Even as an underclassman, Favre's leadership abilities were as extraordinary as his arm strength.

"He has a unique ability of being able to mix with everyone and bring them all together," said McHale. "He has a unique way of connecting with all different types—whites, blacks, offensive players, defensive players. He used to like to hang around with those big ole' linemen.

"His roommate must have been 6-foot-7, 300 pounds and you'd walk into their room and Brett would be messing with him—putting him in a headlock or something—even though the guy could have killed him. That's just the kind of guy he is. I used to call him 'Hemorrhoid' because he was a pain in the butt. I'd call him 'Hemo' for short."

Carmody resigned following Favre's freshman year and Curly Hallman coached Brett's final three seasons. McHale remained with the staff in the same offensive coordinator-offensive line coach role and became a major factor in Favre's development.

"He (McHale) was like a Steve Mariucci to me and was probably my biggest influence in college," Favre said. "He's the one who recruited me and never gave up on me. Curly Hallman was a great coach and mentor, too. I was so young when I got there and he made me realize I wasn't as good as I thought."

As a junior, Favre led Southern Miss to an upset of No. 1-ranked Florida State and twice guided the team to dramatic wins over Auburn. But perhaps his most unforgettable and inspirational performance came two games into his senior year when he sparked the Golden Eagles to an upset of arch-rival Alabama on Sept. 8, 1990. Just 24 days earlier, Favre was lying in a hospital bed after 30 inches of his intestines were surgically removed following a July 14 accident in which he flipped a car and turned the lives of the Favre family upside down.

In addition to suffering internal injuries, Favre also damaged vertebrae in his back. His football future was in serious jeopardy. And if he did play again, doctors said it certainly wouldn't be that season.

But Favre has often dared others to bet against him and the gloomy prognosis served as motivational medicine. Less than a month later, a scrawnier but still-scrappy Favre was springing the upset on the Crimson Tide. He played the Alabama game at a mere 193 pounds, having lost 37 pounds since the accident. Favre had not needed surgery immediately following the auto accident, but the crash had caused part of his intestines to become pinched and he was having trouble eating.

"I thought maybe we'd get him back for half the season if anything," said McHale. "I went to see him in the hospital in Hattiesburg and he had a tube up his nose and Bonita was there, just about ready to say it (his football career) was over. They had this little grease board with the food menu on it and I told him he should erase it and start memorizing some of our new plays because he had to get ready to play football. All of a sudden his eyes got as big as watermelons and he got all excited. All I had to do was mention playing football again."

Said Favre: "Playing that Alabama game, it wasn't really painful, but I just had no stamina. Just running three plays in a row was tough. I couldn't even breathe. I think the whole accident was more traumatic on my family. I knew I was going to be OK and never doubted I'd come back to play. But I was pretty skinny. I was really mad because before the car wreck I was 226 and in the best condition I've ever been in—including last year."

Favre's playmaking abilities were obviously limited against Alabama, but his presence seemed to be the catapult that lifted the Golden Eagles to an emotional win.

"He didn't play very well that game, but just having him back meant so much mentally," McHale said. "He just gutted it out. Had he not played, I don't think we would have had a chance. He's as unique an individual as there is."

Mark McHale will get no argument from Packer fans.

MVP

FAVRE

Quarterback Brett Favre pulls ball down on one of four unscheduled rushing attempts in Super Bowl XXXI. Favre converted the first of them into a 2-yard scoring run which proved to be the eventual winning touchdown.

A THIRD MVP AWARD?... IT HAS A NICE RING

Brett Favre, celebrating with Aaron Taylor, threw for 2 touchdowns and ran for another in the Packers' 35-21 victory over New England in Super Bowl XXXI.

BY TIM FROBERG
Marinette Eagle Herald

Three MVPs has a nice ring to it.

However, Brett Favre wouldn't be crushed if he doesn't pull off a trifecta and become the first NFL player to win three consecutive Associated Press Most Valuable Player awards.

He's more eager to land another top prize that has an even better ring to it—a second Super Bowl ring.

San Francisco's Joe Montana (1989, 1990) is the only NFL player besides Favre to win two consecutive AP MVP awards. No NFL quarterback has ever won the AP award three times during a career. Favre, Montana and Baltimore's Johnny Unitas (1964, 1967) are the only NFL quarterbacks to win the award twice in their career and no player has won it three straight years. The Associated Press MVP award was first launched in 1957. Both Bart Starr (1966) and Paul Hornung (1960) won the award once for the Packers.

"I'd love doing it a third time, but I'd much rather win another Super Bowl," said Favre. "The Super Bowl is so much more important. I can always say that I won the MVP twice and not too many people can say that. But to say I won the Super Bowl twice would be much nicer.

"Winning the MVP is not that big a deal to me. Repeating as Super Bowl champs is. We don't want anyone saying that we had a lucky or a fluke year. A lot of people say that once you win a Super Bowl you get kind of greedy and want another one. It's true."

Favre accepts the challenge of defending the MVP, but knows that landing a third one may be a mountain he might not scale.

"There probably never will be a three-time MVP," he said. "I'm just trying to be realistic. I said last year it would be virtually impossible to do it again. I'd have to play like I did last year, and maybe a little better. It gets harder to get them to vote for you because after awhile they come to expect it."

Favre uses Chicago Bulls superstar Michael Jordan as an example. Jordan had another outstanding season, but was beaten out as the NBA's MVP by Utah's Karl Malone—who won the award for the first time.

"Jordan had a great year, but it's like he had to do something beyond the expected," Favre said. "It's a little harder, too, in football because basketball's a little more individual. In football you really need a great cast around you and everything has to fall into place."

"I'd love doing it a third time, but I'd much rather win another Super Bowl,"

In his MVP season of 1995, Favre threw for 4,413 yards and 38 touchdowns with a completion percentage of 63.0. He compiled a quarterback efficiency rating of 99.5 and was intercepted just 13 times. Last season, Favre passed for 3,899 yards and 39 touchdowns with a completion percentage of 59.9 along with an efficiency rating of 95.8 and 13 interceptions.

"To win an MVP and a Super Bowl in the same year was just fabulous," Favre said. "But it puts so much pressure on you where sometimes it's not even fun. People expect me to throw four touchdown passes the first game. And if I don't, some people will say, 'What the hell's wrong with the guy.' It's just not that easy."

His two consecutive MVP awards and Super Bowl victory have Favre riding a tidal wave of notoriety. His agent, Bus Cook, was flooded with endorsement opportunities for Favre over the winter, but Favre has been careful to not overextend himself.

Quarterbacks

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Brett Favre*	7	6'2"	225	27
Doug Pederson	5	6'3"	215	29

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Steve Bono, Kansas City, 6-4, 215; Ronnie McAda, 6-3, 205, Army.

MVP FAVRE

The Passing in 1996

Brett Favre		Att	Comp	Yds	Pct Comp	Tkd Yds	TD	Lg	Int
Sep. 1	at Tampa Bay	27	20	247	74.1	1/4	4	51t	0
Sep. 9	Philadelphia	31	17	261	54.8	1/0	3	38	0
Sep. 15	San Diego	33	22	231	66.7	1/14	3	32	1
Sep. 22	at Minnesota	27	14	198	51.9	7/41	2	80t	1
Sep. 29	at Seattle	34	20	209	58.8	2/7	4	28	0
Oct. 6	at Chicago	27	18	246	66.7	1/3	4	50t	1
Oct. 14	San Francisco	61	28	395	45.9	2/17	1	59t	2
Oct. 27	Tampa Bay	31	19	178	61.3	2/9	0	26	1
Nov. 3	Detroit	35	24	281	68.6	4/27	4	65t	1
Nov. 10	at Kansas City	49	27	314	55.1	1/3	2	49	1
Nov. 18	at Dallas	37	21	194	56.8	4/30	1	25	0
Nov. 24	at St. Louis	38	25	192	65.8	1/7	2	14	2
Dec. 1	Chicago	27	19	231	70.4	2/15	1	41	0
Dec. 8	Denver	38	20	280	52.6	1/4	4	51t	2
Dec. 15	at Detroit	25	16	240	64.0	3/15	1	40	1
Dec. 22	Minnesota	23	15	202	65.2	2/5	3	37	0
	TOTALS	543	325	3,899	59.9	35/451	39	80t	13

Others		Att	Comp	Yds	Pct Comp	Tkd Yds	TD	Lg	Int
McMahon	Chicago	1	1	24	100.0	0/0	0	24	0
Hentrich	Philadelphia	1	0	0	0.0	0/0	0	0	0
McMahon	at Chicago	1	1	5	100.0	0/0	0	5	0
McMahon	Minnesota	2	1	10	50.0	0/0	0	10	0
	TOTALS	5	3	39	62.5	0/0	0	24	0
TOTALS		**548**	**328**	**3,938**	**59.9**	**35/451**	**39**	**80t**	**13**

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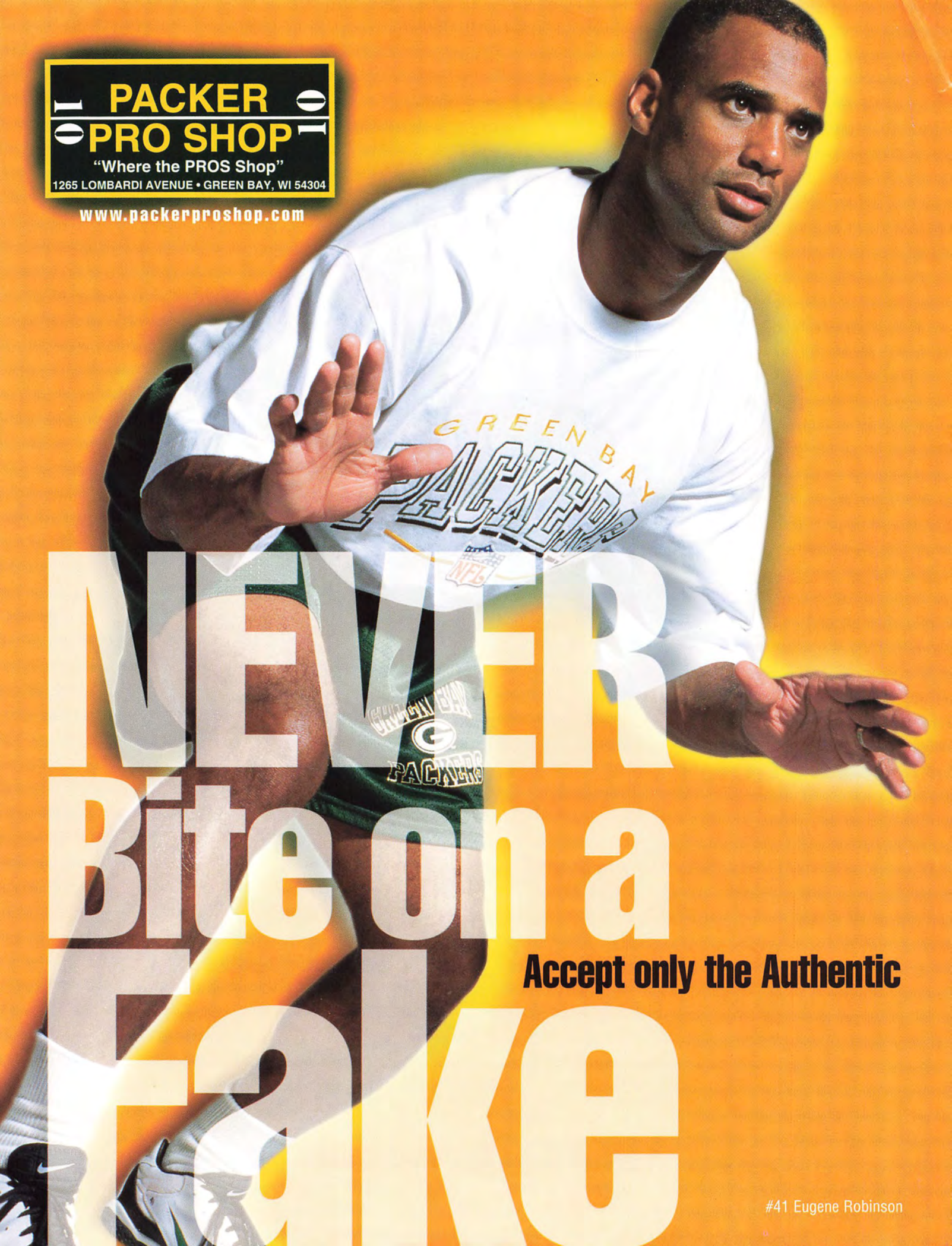
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XXXVI
PACKERS
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'97
THE ARCHITECTS OF A WINNING TEAM

BY CHUCK CARLSON
Appleton Post-Crescent

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

PACKERS PROVE A POINT TO THE 49ERS

Santana Dotson couldn't sleep.

It was 4:30 in the morning, just hours away from the biggest game of his professional life, and the Green Bay Packers defensive tackle couldn't sleep.

"Too much on my mind," he said.

As an unexpectedly heavy January rain pounded down on Dotson's roof, he thought about everything that the Packers had done so far in this 13-3 season and how little it would all mean if they came up short in the playoffs. It would be especially galling if the Packers were dismissed in the opening round of the playoffs by the San Francisco 49ers, a team they had beaten twice in a year but a team that still showed them reluctant respect at best.

In fact, during the week prior to the game, the 49ers seemed to relish their unfamiliar position as underdog and predicted that the Packers simply couldn't handle their position as a frontrunner.

"I think they're feeling the pressure," said Niners safety Tim McDonald. "They've been talking about the Super Bowl since day 1. That's all I've heard."

Coach George Seifert took a veiled shot as well.

"We have our own sense of pressure," he said. "But at the same time, publicly, the expectations are that they're going to win everything. Again, we all know what it's like. We'll see how they deal with it."

But perhaps it was 49ers tight end Brent Jones who capsulized best what the 49ers thought of the Packers.

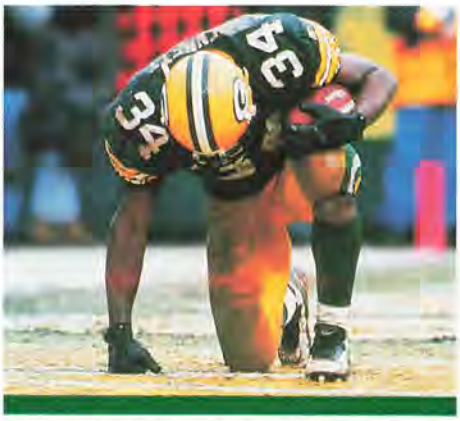
"Everybody's ready to hand the Super Bowl to the Packers," he said. "They haven't won anything yet."

And while the Packers stewed at the 49ers lack of respect, deep down they had to admit that Jones, and the rest of the Niners, had a point.

What had the Packers done aside from fashioning the NFC's best record? What would it mean if a Super Bowl title didn't result from it? What would the effects on this team be if it came up short?

What the Packers faced, as they stepped into the deluge, was a date with destiny—as hackneyed as it sounded.

The time had come for the Packers to put up or shut up and there was no better time to prove it than against the defending Super Bowl champions.



Running back Edgar Bennett pauses to give thanks in end zone, after scoring on a 2-yard, second quarter run—one which subsequently proved to be the winning touchdown in the Packers' 35-14 divisional playoff victory.

"I heard the rain coming down," said Dotson, one of Green Bay's critical free agent pickups from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "Then I decided that this was Lambeau weather, so I might as well go out and have some fun with it."

And in the muck and mire and mud of Lambeau Field, the Packers found redemption. They found a purpose. They found what they were looking for in the very spot they hoped to find it.

The only problem was they were facing an opponent who knew them almost as well as they knew themselves. In the previous two meetings the Packers had beaten the proud Niners and it did not sit well for a franchise accustomed to having what it wanted.

The first loss, a 27-17 verdict at San Francisco's Candlestick Park in the NFC playoff a year earlier, the Niners chalked it up to a good, old-fashioned upset. The 49ers had not taken Green Bay seriously and the inspired Packers took it to them. Fine.

The second, a 23-20 overtime loss October 14 at Lambeau Field, was an aberration in which the officials had made several controversial calls that benefitted the Packers. And even with quarterback Steve Young sidelined with a groin injury, the Packers needed Chris Jacke to kick a 53-yard field goal to beat them.

This time, the 49ers figured, it would be different. This, after all, was the 49ers element, when the game mattered most and the intensity and experience kicked in.

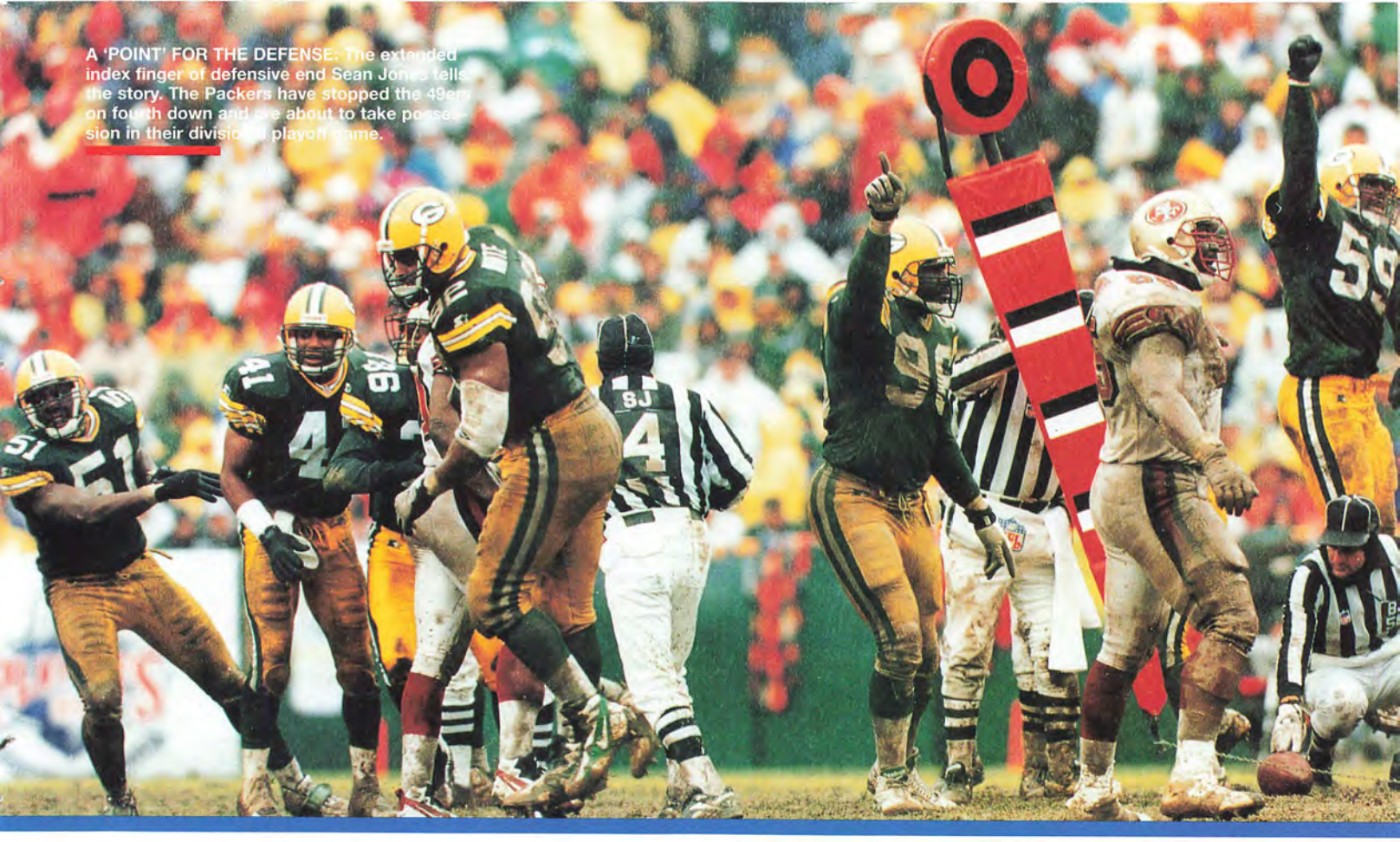
But when it was all over, and the Packers had skidded and slipped and slopped to a decisive 35-14 win, the only certainty was that the Packers had put the 49ers in their rear-view mirror in terms of NFC supremacy.

It's possible the game was decided after the 49ers' first two series, when it became obvious that Young, who all week had claimed he would play despite sore ribs, was hurt far worse than that.

And, in truth, Young had not simply bruised his ribs the previous week against Philadelphia, but had cracked two ribs, making even breathing a new adventure in agony.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

XXXI



A 'POINT' FOR THE DEFENSE: The extended index finger of defensive end Sean Jones tells the story. The Packers have stopped the 49ers on fourth down and are about to take possession in their divisional playoff game.

He was replaced by Elvis Grbac, who had none of the mobility and even less of the playoff experience of Young.

But that wasn't what decided the game.

The difference was punt returner Desmond Howard and wide receiver Andre Rison and halfback Edgar Bennett and quarterback Brett Favre and a defense that seemed to envelop the 49ers.

"The one thing about this team is they have taken every circumstance and handled it," said defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur. "They don't seem to let things bother them too much." And in the end, the Packers took what was given to them and ran with it.

It began before the game was three minutes old.

Howard took a Tommy Thompson punt at his own 29, slipped three tackles, squirted upfield, eluded another tackler and went 71 yards for the score—his fourth punt return for a touchdown during the season.

"It was a very returnable kick," Howard said. "I just tried to take it up the middle. It was kind of like a blur after that."

But Howard wasn't through. Later in the quarter, he took another punt back 46 yards to the 49ers' 7, setting up a Favre-to-Rison four-yard scoring pass that gave Green Bay a crucial 14-0 lead.

"Desmond made the difference in the game early," coach Mike Holmgren said.

The Packers eventually stretched their lead to 21-0 in the second quarter on a Bennett touchdown run. But then special teams goof-ups nearly squandered the lead.

Late in the second quarter, a Thompson punt bounced off Packer Chris Hayes and the 49ers recovered at the Green Bay 26, leading to a touchdown.

An even stranger gaffe occurred opening the third quarter. Howard, who was drenched and muddy from the first half, took too long changing uniforms at halftime and was late taking his place on the kickoff return.

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Frantic, fellow return man Don Beebe motioned for somebody from the sideline to take his place.

"I should have called a timeout," Beebe said later.

Instead, Rison sprinted onto the field even though he hadn't played special teams since high school.

The ball skidded toward Beebe, then slipped through his legs, where San Francisco's Steve Israel recovered at the Packers' 4. Grbac scored on the next play and, suddenly, a game the Packers were dominating was slipping away.

Howard had no defense for his tardiness.

"I was changing my uniform," he said. "I was soaking wet. I was freezing. I couldn't stop shivering."

A year earlier, the Packers might have collapsed at such adversity. But not this time.

Instead, Green Bay embarked on a 12-play, 72-yard drive that all but sent the Packers into the NFC title game for the second straight year.

"It was true football right there," Favre said. "Before that, it was crazy plays like punt returns and the kickoff thing, guys sliding around, it was weird. All of a sudden, we made a drive and scored. It kind of established what we wanted to do."

The drive ended with Bennett blasting in from the 3, but getting clobbered at the goal line by safety Merton Hanks and fumbling. Wide receiver Antonio Freeman dove on the ball and held on despite an avalanche of 49ers on top of him.

"It seemed like all of them were on me," Freeman said. "Then I heard Brett and (center) Frankie Winters saying 'Hang in there, Free, hang in there.'"

The touchdown re-established Green Bay's control and the defense took over from there.

For the game, the Packers defense held the Niners to 196 total yards and kept the dangerous Jerry Rice to only five catches for 36 yards. Green Bay also forced five turnovers, three interceptions and two fumbles.

Bennett, who led all rushers with 80 yards on 17 carries, then capped the afternoon with an 11-yard sweep for the game's final touchdown.

And though the Packers knew their job was far from over and that a date in the NFC title game against Carolina waited, they still took a moment to savor the win and let the 49ers know that a little respect can go a long way.

"I think we deserve respect now, the respect the 49ers weren't giving us," said tight end Mark Chmura. "I never heard one quote coming out of their locker room saying that we were a good team. All we heard was that they didn't have so-and-so playing, and I'm sure they're going to say something now.

"But beating them three times in one year? You tell me. I think it offended a lot of guys in this locker room. They're a good team, and we'll admit they are. But I think we are, too."

Niners Nullified

GAME SEVENTEEN (14–3)

San Francisco 49ers	**0**	**7**	**7**	**0**	**14**
Green Bay Packers	**14**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**35**

GB—Howard, 71 punt return (Jacke XP)
GB—Rison, 4 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Bennett, 2 run (Jacke XP)
SF—Kirby, 8 pass from Grbac (Wilkins XP)
SF—Grbac, 4 run (Wilkins XP)
GB—Freeman, fumble recovery (Jacke XP)
GB—Bennett, 11 run (Jacke XP)

	SF	GB
First Downs	12	15
Rushes, Yards	18-68	39-139
Passing Yards	128	71
Comp-Att-Int	21-41-3	11-15-0
Offensive Plays	60	55
Return Yards	98	166
Punting	6-35.8	6-43.2
Penalties	6-42	1-5
Time of Possession	26:02	33:58

Rushing

GB—Bennett 17-80, Levens 15-46, Favre 5-9, Henderson 2-4; SF—Grbac 4-32, Kirby 6-14, Floyd 5-13, Vardell 2-6, Young 1-3.

Passing

GB—Favre 15 atts, 11 comp, 79 yds, 1 TD, 0 int; SF—Grbac 36 atts, 19 comp, 125 yds, 1 TD, 3 int; Young 5 atts, 2 comp, 8 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; Rice 0 atts, 00 comp, 000 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

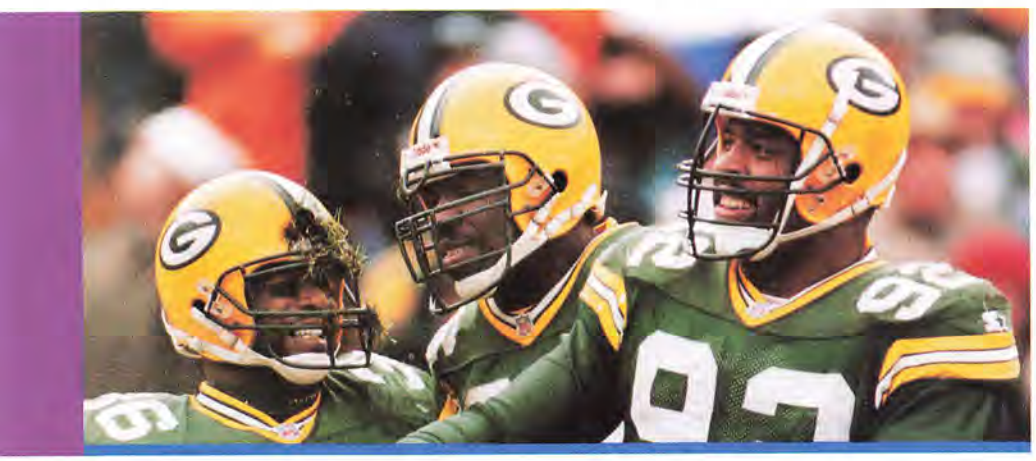
GB—Freeman 2-26, Levens 2-16, Bennett 2-14, Rison 2-13, Henderson 1-4, Jackson 1-4, Beebe 1-2; SF—Kirby 6-35, Floyd 6-30, Rice 5-36, Jones 4-32.

Interceptions

GB—Robinson (2), Newsome; SF—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Hayes, Williams; SF—Buckley.



SOD-DEN SAFETY: Strong safety LeRoy Butler is carrying a piece of frozen tundra in and on his helmet during a break in the action of the divisional playoff game against the 49ers January 4. Butler is sharing a happy moment with Sean Jones (center) and Reggie White despite a day-long downpour.

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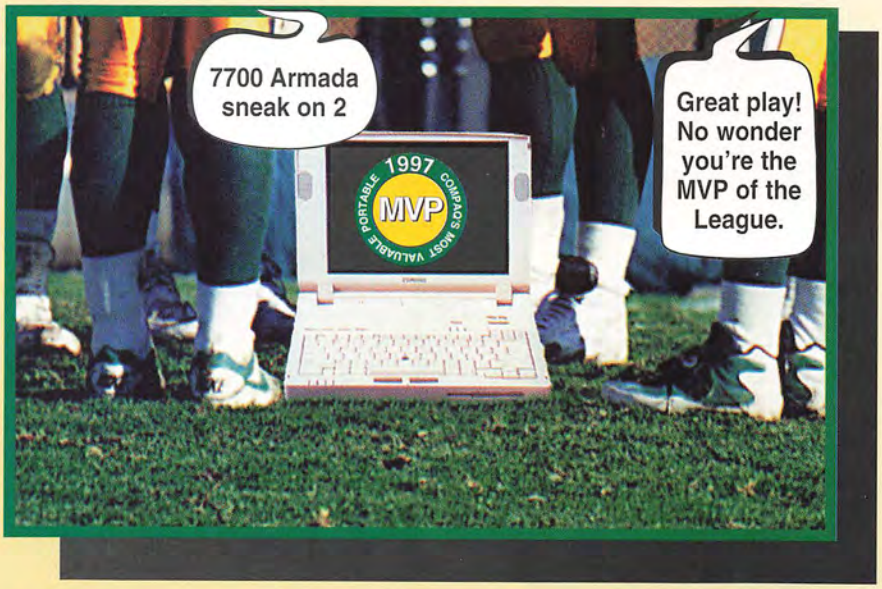
Repeat Performance



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BY TOM MULHERN
Appleton Post-Crescent

A PERFECT MOMENT:

PACKERS CLAIM NFC TITLE IN FRIGID LAMBEAU FIELD

In a season filled with magic moments for the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers, one stood out.

On a hastily constructed wooden platform in the middle of Lambeau Field on a frigid January day, players, coaches and team officials basked in the warmth generated by 60,000 delirious and appreciative fans as a nationwide television audience gaped at a love affair that has spanned more than seven decades.

The Packers and their fans had just ended a 29 year drought with a convincing 30-13 victory over the Carolina Panthers in the NFC Championship Game and were headed back to the Super Bowl, a game they once considered their birthright.

For a moment, at least, order seemed to be restored to the often off-kilter world of sports. At a time when so many things about professional sports seemed so wrong, this moment seemed so right.

"It was a great scene," Packers president Bob Harlan said a few days later. "I think what's really been nice, I've heard from so many people who said that was really good for sports. (Milwaukee Brewers owner) Bud Selig said several baseball owners called him and said that's what a post-game ceremony should be."

Harlan said the moment couldn't have been any more perfect if it had been scripted by the team's public relations department.

On the podium, Harlan, general manager Ron Wolf and coach Mike Holmgren accepted the George S. Halas trophy for winning the NFC title and each said a few appreciative words to the fans.

The only problem was the podium wasn't big enough for everybody. "There just wasn't enough room for the players, the coaches and the 60,000 fans that were in there (stadium)," wide receiver Antonio Freeman said.

The players who couldn't fit on the podium cavorted on the field as the song "We Are The Champions" blared from the sound system. Wide receiver Don Beebe celebrated with his wife and brothers in one corner. Defensive end Reggie White took a victory lap around the field. Linebacker Wayne Simmons climbed the wall at the edge of the stands and led cheers. Several players hurled themselves into the crowd, a ritual that has come to represent the special bond between this team and its fans.

Even the normally reserved Wolf was swept up in the moment. He did a little dance step in the north end zone as the final seconds ticked off the clock. He pumped his fists into the air, waved to the crowd and flashed a thumbs-up.

"That's the happiest I think I've ever seen him, and the most demonstrative," Harlan said

On the platform, Wolf clutched a microphone and shouted over the public address system: "Hey, Green Bay, how about this? Guess where we're going?"

"THE moment," said Wolf, when looking back on last season. "That was my moment. I was so proud of what we had accomplished, that we did it our way. That was really an important thing for me.

"Everyone had picked us to do it and we did it. It was like an enormous weight was lifted off our shoulders. Boy, that was a magnificent feeling."

At a time when so much of professional sports seems artificial—from the grass to the scoreboard-generated prompts for crowd noise—this was as genuine as it gets. A real football stadium, with real grass, played in real weather conditions, capped by a post-game celebration filled with real emotion.

Several team leaders on the podium also took turns at the microphone, some choking back tears, and each making certain to thank the fans.

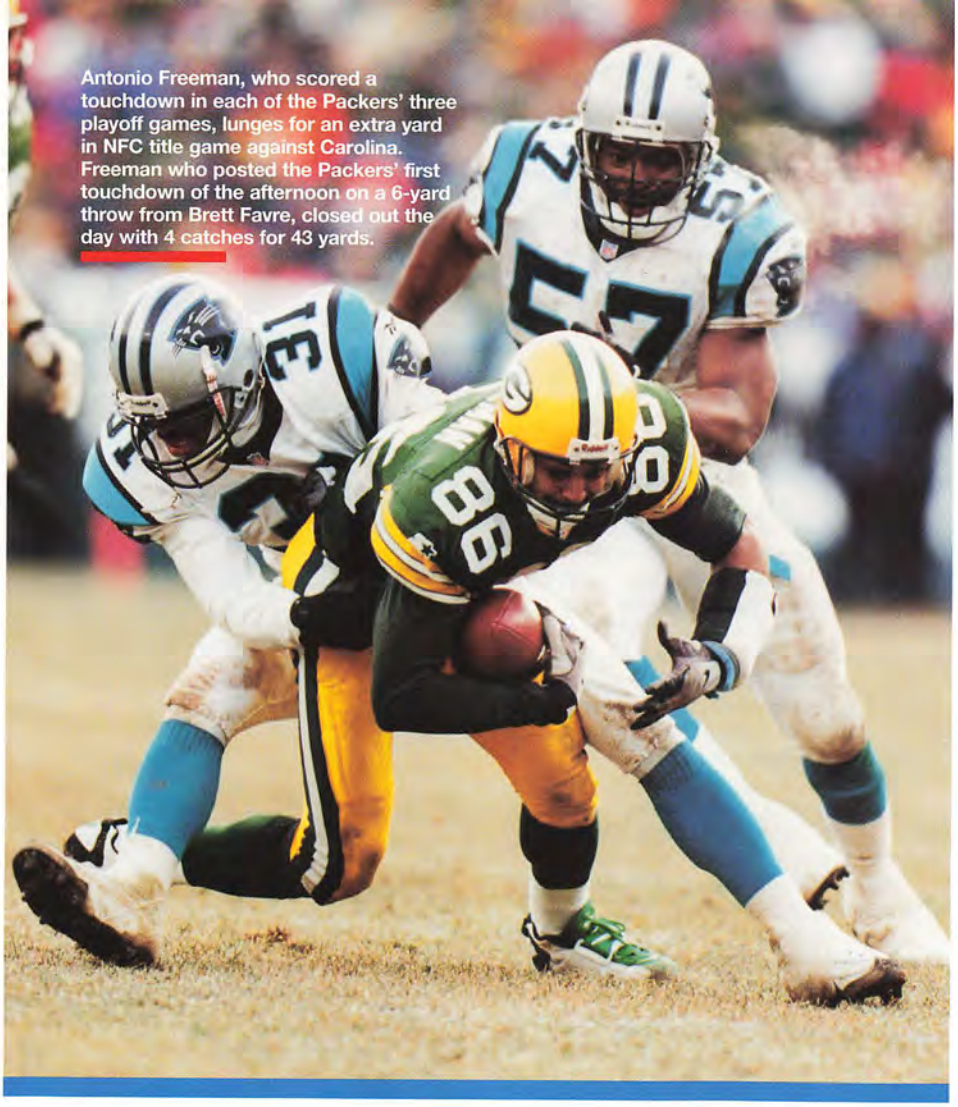
"The players are standing up there with tears in their eyes," Harlan said. "They were very sincere. I just think it was a great show for what Green Bay really is. The reaction I've had...was the ceremony told it all. The players said all the right things. It was just a great football story."

It was fitting that the players and fans would share this moment together, like a giant group hug, since they had endured so much together.

"Basically, that's all it was, a big group hug," fullback William Henderson said.

HISTORIC HANDOFF: Packers President Bob Harlan flashes a proud smile as he is presented with the George Halas Trophy, emblematic of the National Football Conference Championship, by Virginia Halas McCaskey, daughter of the legendary Chicago Bears' owner-coach. Terry Bradshaw of Fox Sports, the master of ceremonies for the presentation, is at left and Head Coach Mike Holmgren next to Mrs. McCaskey.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS XXXI



Antonio Freeman, who scored a touchdown in each of the Packers' three playoff games, lunges for an extra yard in NFC title game against Carolina. Freeman who posted the Packers' first touchdown of the afternoon on a 6-yard throw from Brett Favre, closed out the day with 4 catches for 43 yards.

Leaping Craig Newsome waylays a Kerry Collins pass in the fourth quarter of NFL title game against Carolina. He returned it 35 yards, to near midfield, ending the Panthers' final scoring bid.

"Everybody patting each other on the back instead of taking the praise for themselves.

"As corny as it may seen, as cliche as the Packers have been with the fans, and being worshiped as much as we are, it needs to be there. We enjoy doing it because they give to us and we've got to give back. It just needs to be there."

Said halfback Edgar Bennett: "Getting a chance to do it right here in Lambeau, that made it special. And the fans have been there for us, since I've been here. We've struggled at times but to achieve what we achieved this past year was just unbelievable."

Ever since the plane ride back from Dallas following the loss in the championship game the previous year, the focus had been on getting this game at home.

"We were on the road a lot the year before (in the playoffs), San Francisco and Dallas," Freeman said. "We always wanted to get people back here in Lambeau in January and (said) it would be extremely tough."

After working so hard all season to get the home-field advantage, the Packers weren't about to squander it. They had won 17 consecutive home games and if they weren't feeling invincible, their confidence level was at an all-time high.

"The home-field advantage is everything," Holmgren said. "It meant everything to us in the playoffs."

The focus prior to the game was on the field which had been chewed up in the divisional playoff game against San Francisco the week before, and the expected cold weather.

The field was completely resodded the week before the game and held up remarkably well. The weather was cold but not as brutal as some had expected. The tempera-

ture at kickoff was 3 degrees, with winds of 10 mph, for a wind chill of minus-17.

Wolf tweaked the national media prior to the game who made the cold weather such a focus of the game. "If you look at the basic existence of the National Football League, where it started, it didn't start in sunny California or Florida," Wolf said. "It started in Minnesota, it started in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, places like that. I think you look at any of the true (NFL) history, you will see a lot of cold games played in cold climates.

"I don't think this is anything unique. You guys are getting spoiled because you have to be inside."

The first championship game at Lambeau Field since the Ice Bowl on New Year's Eve in 1967 also lent a nostalgic feel to the game. If you appreciated pro football for what it used to be, rather than what it has become, then this game was for you.

This represented the game's roots. A small town, in a northern climate, with real grass, in a football-only stadium.

"The NFL started out in the 1920s as basically a small-town league," said Don Smith, vice president of public relations at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. "That, of course pretty much evaporated by the 1930s, but Green Bay has held on.

"That makes it really remarkable. I've been to Green Bay, both on a game day and other times. There is an aura of unanimity and closeness and spirit in Green Bay that I really don't think you'll find anywhere else."

Or as Packers defensive tackle Santana Dotson said: "This is the bare essence of football, January, playing in freezing conditions. It's like one of those late ESPN football shows, where they show one of those old championships at about two or three in the morning."

Once the game began, the Packers took command with a punishing running game that rolled up 201 yards behind an inspired offensive line. It was the team's third-highest total in a postseason game.

"I think we did make a statement, and the statement was that we can run the football," said backup halfback Dorsey Levens, who spoke loudest of all.

Other than getting the Packers back to the Super Bowl, the game will best be remembered for the emergence of Levens, who had a career game. He had 10 carries for 88 yards and five receptions for another 117, including a leaping 29-yard touchdown catch over Panthers cornerback Eric Davis for the Packers first score.

The Packers finished with 479 yards of offense, the most allowed by Carolina in its two-year existence. There were seven plays of 20 yards or more.

Showing their trademark balance that they had relied on all season, the Packers' defense also allowed just 251 yards. Carolina's only touchdown came after linebacker Sam Mills intercepted a pass from quarterback Brett Favre and returned it to the Green Bay 2-yard line.

When cornerback Craig Newsome intercepted a pass with a little more than 3 minutes to play, one of three forced turnovers by the Packers defense, the celebration erupted.

Even though a bigger victory would come two weeks later in New Orleans in the Super Bowl, the championship game is a memory that will linger the longest with some players. The feelings that followed the Super Bowl were more exhaustion and relief.

"You're just so exhausted," tight end Mark Chmura said. "All the pressure that goes into the game. All the pressure that has built in the playoffs and you're supposed to win it all. To finally win it, you're just so emotionally burned out you don't know what to feel."

But there was no such ambivalence following the championship game. Just pure, unadulterated joy and a celebration for the ages.

"Just to celebrate with the fans, who sat in that freezing cold weather, awful conditions, and not a soul left," marveled Freeman. "Everybody stayed.

"That's what made it special. To be able to stand up on that platform and look out and still see 60,000 fans in the stands roaring and cheering, it's rare in football that you see a scene like that."

Dorsey Levens, a potent force down the stretch and in the playoffs, closed out the regular season with a team-best 4.7-yard rushing average and emerged as the team's leading receiver in the postseason with 7 catches for 133 yards and impressive 19.0-yard average per reception.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

XXXI

Finer Than Carolina

GAME EIGHTEEN (15–3)

Carolina Panthers	**7**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**13**
Green Bay Packers	**0**	**17**	**10**	**3**	**30**

CA—Griffith, 3 pass from Collins (Kasay XP)
GB—Levens, 29 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
CA—FG Kasay, 22
GB—Freeman, 6 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 31
GB—FG Jacke, 32
CA—FG Kasay, 23
GB—Bennett, 4 run (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 28

	CA	GB
First Downs	12	22
Rushes, Yards	14-45	45-201
Passing Yards	206	278
Comp-Att-Int	19-37-2	19-29-1
Offensive Plays	53	75
Return Yards	100	142
Punting	5-36.0	2-36.0
Penalties	4-25	5-45
Time of Possession	21:57	38:03

Rushing

GB—Bennett 25-99, Levens 10-88, Favre 5-14, McMahon 4-0, Henderson 1-0; CA—Johnson 11-31, Oliver 2-15, Collins 1 (minus 1).

Passing

GB—Favre 29 atts, 19 comp, 292 yds, 2 TD, 1 int; CA—Collins 37 atts, 19 comp, 215 yds, 1 TD, 2 int.

Receiving

GB—Levens 5-117, Freeman 4-43, Rison 3-53, Jackson 3-30, Bennett 2-5, Beebe 1-29, Chmura 1-15; CA—Green 5-51, Carrier 4-65, Griffith 4-23, Walls 3-33, Ismail 1-24, Johnson 1-14, Oliver 1-5.

Interceptions

GB—Newsome, Williams; CA—Mills.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Butler; CA—Lathon.

Celebrating teammates congratulate cornerback Tyrone Williams following his incredible one-handed interception of a Kerry Collins pass in the championship playoff showdown against Carolina.

XXXI

1996 WORLD CHAMPIONS

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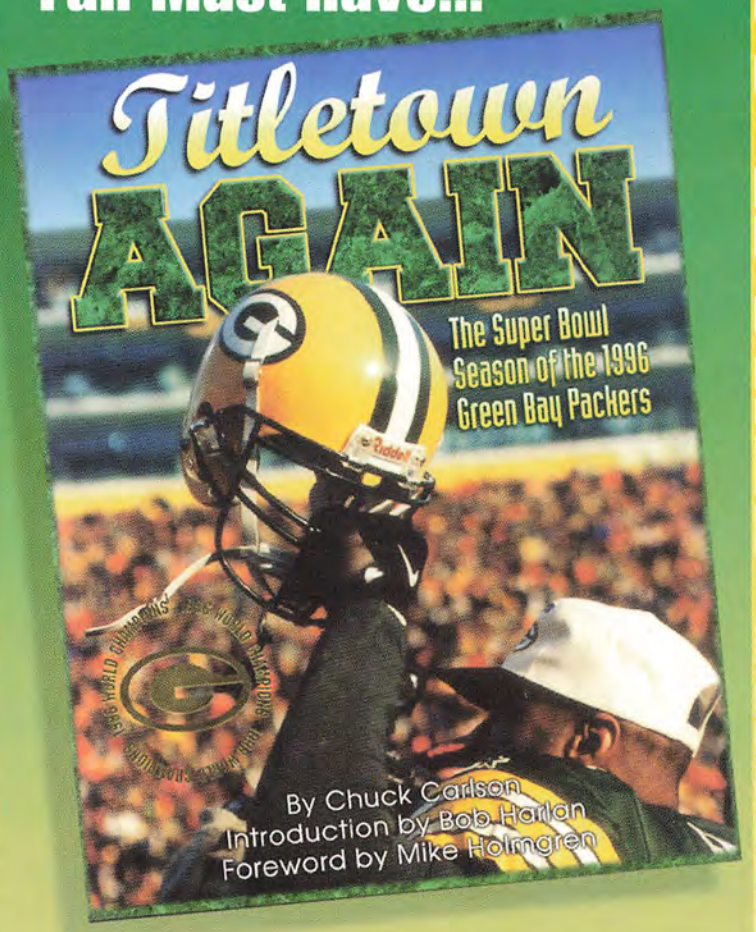

TITLETOWN AGAIN

The Super Bowl Season of the 1996 Green Bay Packers
by Chuck Carlson, Introduction by Bob Harlan
Foreword by Mike Holmgren
Photography by Vernon Biever and Jim Biever

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1996 WORLD CHAMPIONS

Titletown Again by veteran sports writer Chuck Carlson takes you through the entire 1996 season, the two play off wins over San Fransisco and Carolina and , finally, to the Super Bowl triumph over the New England Patriots. *Titletown Again* captures all the inside details of this amazing season in words and photos. Packers official photographers Vernon and Jim Biever were the only photographers given complete access to all areas within the Packers organization during the 1996 season. Their stunning action and behind-the-scenes photos show the personality and character of the "New Americas Team"...**The Green Bay Packers.**

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BY TOM SILVERSTEIN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

SUPER BOWL TROPHY RETURNS TO LAMBEAU WHERE IT BELONGS

The din of supercharged voices bouncing from decorated wall to decorated wall made it near impossible for them to hear their own voices and the haze lingering above the field created a blurry vision that sometimes made them wonder if they were seeing double.

Yet when Super Bowl XXXI had concluded at exactly 8:46 p.m. Wisconsin time, nothing could have been clearer to the 72,301 fans who had filled the Louisiana Superdome that evening than this simple fact: the Green Bay Packers were the best team in football.

Just in case there was any doubt among those in attendance or the millions of television viewers who made the 35-21 Green Bay victory over New England the fourth most-watched Super Bowl of all time, Packer president Bob Harlan stood on the victory podium and uttered the words that sealed the victory in time.

"I think it's time the Lombardi Trophy goes back to Lambeau Field," Harlan said, accepting the award from NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue, "where it belongs."

The Packer victory ended a long, frustrating period of 29 years in which the organization had gone from victories in Super Bowls I and II to total stagnation. Not until general manager Ron Wolf and coach Mike Holmgren began their rebuilding program in 1992 had there been real hope the Packers could capture a 12th NFL championship.

But stagnation turned to progress and after a 13-3 regular-season record and playoff victories against San Francisco and Carolina, the Packers were in the big show. It was a different era, different players and different coaches, but it was the same team.

The week before the game there seemed to be little doubt among observers that the Packers were going to get their hands on that trophy again; after all, the oddsmakers had installed them as 14-point favorites over the AFC champion Patriots. But no one knew for sure how a team with only one Super Bowl ring owner (Jim McMahon) would respond to the big game.

What the experts and the rest of the world got was a rollercoaster ride that pushed the emotions of both team's faithful to the limit. It was a journey that saw the Packers ride a first-quarter crescendo to a 10-0 lead, only to succumb to a Patriot assault that turned the game into a free-for-all.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue presents Super Bowl XXXI trophy to, from left, Head Coach Mike Holmgren, Executive Vice President Ron Wolf and team President Bob Harlan.

Not until record-setting returner Desmond Howard fielded a late third-quarter kickoff at the 1-yard line and darted 99 yards for a touchdown were the Packers able to accept the fact that they were soon to be champions. Just to make sure, they sicked defensive end Reggie White on Patriot quarterback Drew Bledsoe, who fell three times to the Packer star's pass rush in the final 18 minutes.

"There's an old saying that the cream always rises to the top," said Howard, who earned game MVP honors for his Super Bowl record 244 return yards. "I was just another strong link in this very, very strong chain. I never would have imagined that I would have won MVP of the Super Bowl, simply because I really didn't expect them to be kicking the ball that much."

Howard's return electrified a crowd that had been rocked with big play after big play. By the time the diminutive receiver was doing his version of the robot dance in the end zone, there had been five plays of 32 or more yards and an 18-yard scoring dash up the middle by running back Curtis Martin that had cut Green Bay's lead to 27-21.

The Packers outgained the Patriots 323 yards to 257, averaging 4.8 yards per play while holding New England to just 43 rushing yards. Favre completed 14 of 27 passes for two touchdowns and ran for another. Receiver Antonio Freeman caught three passes for 105 yards and a touchdown, while running back Dorsey Levens gained 61 yards on 14 carries.

The cumulative effect was a well-balanced attack that simply wore down the underdog Patriots. Whether it was Favre throwing bombs or White knocking down Bledsoe or Howard darting across the field, the Packers had all the right ingredients to be a champion.

"I'm humbled by this experience," coach Mike Holmgren said afterward. "This is the greatest group of players I've been around.

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Coach Lombardi left a wonderful legacy for us. Now we're just trying to do our own part to add to it."

And they started out quickly doing it.

It was the Packers who set the tone for the high-powered affair with an early first-quarter onslaught. The offense moved so swiftly and effectively that it appeared the game would be over before it even started.

After the defense forced a punt on the opening possession of the game, quarterback Brett Favre struck gold on his second play from scrimmage. Recognizing one-on-one coverage on wide receiver Andre Rison, Favre audibled out of a short pass to the tight end and ordered maximum protection.

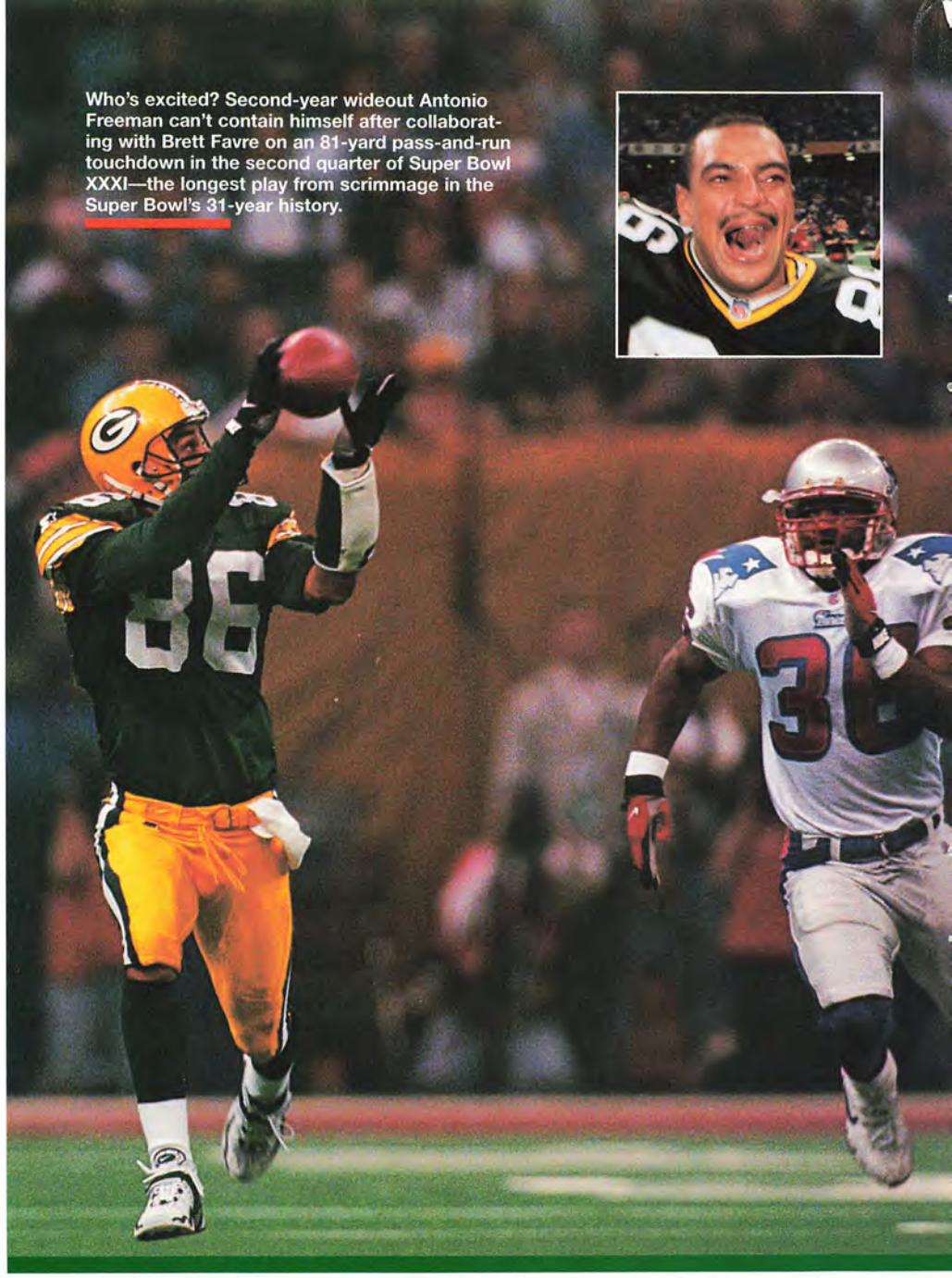
As though the play had been sent down from a higher being, Rison put an inside move on cornerback Otis Smith, broke free and caught Favre's pass in stride for a 54-yard touchdown. With just 3:32 run off the clock, the Packers had thrust a dagger into the Patriots' hopes.

"There were some coverages that we had seen, (but) I didn't think it would happen that early in the game - the second play of the game," Favre said. "I knew if I got the protection that he (Rison) would beat his guy and that's exactly what happened."

The play was a feather in Favre's cap, considering he had been criticized for being a slow starter. Moreover, it displayed the moxy the two-time league MVP had developed through the years as he recognized a defensive set, made an adjustment and then carried out the assignment.

"I talked to him this morning, and he was saying he was so tired of everyone talking about how he's always getting off to a slow start," offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis said. "I was so happy when he hit that to start off the game. It really got the monkey off his back."

Cornerback Doug Evans' interception on New England's ensuing possession set the offense up in scoring position at the Patriots'



Who's excited? Second-year wideout Antonio Freeman can't contain himself after collaborating with Brett Favre on an 81-yard pass-and-run touchdown in the second quarter of Super Bowl XXXI—the longest play from scrimmage in the Super Bowl's 31-year history.

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A jubilant Reggie White celebrates one of his Super Bowl record 3 sacks after felling Patriots Drew Bledsoe (on turf).

28, and it looked like the Packers might go up 14 in the first quarter. But a third-down screen to Dorsey Levens fell a yard short of the first down and the Packers settled for a 10-0 lead on Chris Jacke's 37-yard field goal.

As much momentum as the Packers had established it was imperative for the Patriots to strike back immediately, and that's exactly what they did. Only they didn't stop with Keith Byars' 1-yard touchdown catch from Bledsoe on the ensuing possession; they added tight end Ben Coates' 4-yard touchdown reception with 2:33 to go in the quarter.

For three straight possessions, the Packer offense went three plays and out, failing to get a first down and producing just 6 yards. For a team that had been methodical in generating a league-leading 456 points during the regular season, it was starting to look like Patriots coach Bill Parcells and defensive coordinator Bill Belichick had solved the Packer offense.

But just as he had caught the Patriots out of position in the first quarter, Favre recognized another favorable matchup with 14 minutes to go in the half. This time, Antonio Freeman was lined up opposite strong safety Lawyer Milloy and the Packers were just one completion away from swinging momentum back in their favor.

"They stayed in a base defense," Lewis said. "That means they end up with a strong safety on Free. You can't cover him with just a strong safety."

No, indeed. Freeman got behind Milloy and caught a Favre rifle shot in stride down the right sideline. Neither Milloy nor free safety Willie Clay came close to catching Freeman, who set a Super Bowl record for his 81-yard touchdown reception.

The Packer sideline erupted as the Packers regained the lead at 17-14. It was a key moment in the game because now Green Bay was back in control and could rely on its league-leading defense to keep the Patriots at bay.

When safety LeRoy Butler came on a blitz and sacked Bledsoe on the possession following Freeman's touchdown, the Packers continued their command of the quarter. As Butler ran right over running back Dave Meggett on a weakside blitz and pulled Bledsoe down with one arm the momentum continued to swing.

Howard set up Jacke's 31-yard field goal with a 34-yard punt return to make it 20-14 and then Favre led the offense on a nine-play, 74-yard drive that culminated with his dive into the end zone with 1:11 left in the half. Suddenly the Packers were ahead by 13 with just 30 minutes left in the final game of the season.

Just before heading back onto the field for the second half, the players gathered with

Edgar Bennett, intent upon avoiding New England offensive end Mike Jones, was the Packers' busiest back in Super Bowl XXXI, rushing 17 times for 80 yards. Bennett is the Packers' all-time leading rusher in post season play with 561 yards in 163 attempts.

ON THE HOOK: Strong safety LeRoy Butler strives to reel in Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe in second quarter of the Super Bowl. He closed out the day with a team-high 7 solo tackles, including a 9-yard sack.

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Holmgren in the middle of the locker room and prepared themselves for one last push toward glory.

"Everybody just grabbed somebody next to them and we all held each other's hand," fullback William Henderson said. "It centers you again. It made everybody know what their focus had to be."

Despite a 13-point lead, victory did not come easy for the Packers. Neither team could crack the end zone until Martin finally burst through the middle of the line, broke the tackles of Gilbert Brown and Butler and scampered 18 yards for a touchdown with 3:27 left in the third quarter. Martin's score culminated a seven-play, 53-yard drive that lasted 3 minutes 25 seconds.

"I thought we might have had them rocking just a little bit," coach Bill Parcells said. "We had a lot of momentum on that drive being our defense was playing a lot better."

But Parcells and his staff made one critical mistake. They chose to allow Howard to field the ball on the ensuing kickoff. As fast as Parcells could say "Oh, no!" Howard was in the clear and headed for the end zone.

Special teams coach Nolan Cromwell had told Howard he thought he could score on a middle return and so he had his wedge go straight up the field. Howard let Don Beebe lead the way and linebackers Lamont Hollinquest and Keith McKenzie cleared out a path to the left.

Howard saw the crease and immediately exploded into the clear. Only kicker Adam Vinatieri had a shot to tackle Howard, but he might as well have had his turf shoes nailed to the ground for how much of a chance he had of corralling the MVP.

"As I ran through the middle, I just basically followed Don Beebe's block," Howard said. "Our guys did the job in the wedge, they blocked their assignments correctly and the hole was there. I just tried to hit the hole at full-tilt and make the kicker miss. After that, we pretty much knew it was a touchdown."

And from that point on, the Packers knew they were in charge. White's three sacks and interceptions by cornerback Craig Newsome and linebacker Brian Williams sealed the game.

All that was left for the team of destiny was to play out the clock. As it wound down to zero, Holmgren was carried off the field amid a shower of confetti and the players hugged each other as though they were long lost brothers.

The impressive contingent of Packer fans waved their flags and lifted their cheeseheads in salute of an effort well done. The Superdome had been the site of the Chicago Bears' Super Bowl victory in 1986 and San Francisco's triumph in 1990, but now it was a part of history.

The Lombardi Trophy was heading home.

Desmond Howard, shown here streaking by New England players on his 99-yard kickoff return in the third quarter, earned Super Bowl MVP honors with his record 244 total return yards.

It's SUPER !!!!!

GAME NINETEEN (16–3)

New England Patriots	**14**	**0**	**7**	**0**	**21**
Green Bay Packers	**10**	**17**	**8**	**0**	**35**

GB—Rison, 54 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 37
NE—Byars, 1 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri XP)
NE—Coates, 4 pass from Bledsoe (Vinatieri XP)
GB—Freeman, 81 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 31
GB—Favre, 2 run (Jacke XP)
NE—Martin, 18 run (Vinatieri XP)
GB—Howard, 99 kickoff return (Chmura-Favre pass)

	NE	GB
First Downs	16	16
Rushes, Yards	13-43	36-115
Passing Yards	214	208
Comp-Att-Int	25-48-4	14-27-0
Offensive Plays	66	68
Return Yards	165	268
Punting	8-45.1	7-42.7
Penalties	2-22	3-41
Time of Possession	25:45	34:15

Rushing

GB—Levens 14-61, Bennett 17-40, Favre 4-12, Henderson 1-2; NE—Martin 11-42, Bledsoe 1-1, Meggett 1-0.

Passing

GB—Favre 27 atts, 14 comp, 246 yds, 2 TD, 0 int; NE—Bledsoe 48 atts, 25 comp, 253 yds, 2 TD, 4 int.

Receiving

GB—Freeman 3-105, Levens 3-23, Rison 2-77, Henderson 2-14, Chmura 2-13, Jackson 1-10, Bennett 1-4; NE—Coates 6-67, Glenn 4-62, Byars 4-42, Jefferson 3-34, Martin 3-28, Meggett 3-8, Brisby 2-12.

Interceptions

GB—Williams, Prior, Evans, Newsome; NE—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; NE—0.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

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AMERICA'S TEAM?

It's the Green Bay Packers....in any sport.

America's children have spoken—emphatically. According to a national poll conducted by the Nickelodeon Television Network, the Packers are clearly the most popular sports team among the nation's youngsters.

In the process, the Green and Gold unseated the NBA's Chicago Bulls, who had won the honor in 1996.

The poll was conducted by mail-in votes, on Nickelodeon's website and at McDonald's restaurants as part of the annual Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards.

Packers tight end Mark Chmura accepted the honor on the club's behalf at the network's annual Kid's Choice Awards show, attended by 6,000 children, in Los Angeles April 19.

NEW ORLEANS

BY DALE HOFMANN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

AN AFTERNOON OF ADORATION:

200,000 FANS WELCOME "SUPER" CHAMPIONS

While the wind chill hovers at 10 degrees below zero, frost-bitten Mike Holmgren and Ron Wolf triumphantly hold aloft the Super Bowl XXXI trophy for 60,000 cheering fans to see at the welcome home celebration in Lambeau Field.

So here's the game plan.

We take $40 million worth of perishable football players and ship them south for a week to thin out their blood.

Then we send them back to Green Bay where the wind chill would freeze-dry a moose, jam them into a couple of buses, crank open the windows and steer through 200,000 hysterical citizens for four-plus hours before herding everybody into the middle of 60,000 other lunatics whose teeth have been chattering since breakfast.

Now, what should we call this play?

How about a "celebration?"

It makes you wonder what the fans would do if they ever got mad at the Green Bay Packers?

That's something we'll probably never find out. Wisconsin had 29 years between Super Bowls to lose its temper with this team, and it's not like the folks weren't provoked. They endured everything from Mossy Cade to the Hadl trade while barely raising their voices. They used the energy instead to store up affection for the day the suffering would end and the party could resume.

And it all busted loose on a frigid gray Monday when the champions of Super Bowl XXXI came home from New Orleans for an afternoon of adoration and an ancillary case of frostbite.

In any other town, with any other team, when 200,000 people take to the streets to celebrate a sporting event, your first thought is looting and your worst fear is arson. There were no arrests connected with this event, although you could have hauled half the town away for obstructing traffic.

"I'll never forget it for the rest of my life," said Jerry Parins, the Packers corporate security officer and a 30-year veteran of the Green Bay police force who only thought he'd seen everything. "It will never happen again."

Well, maybe not quite the same way that it happened this time. The team, the city and the people have had a chance to learn from a few mistakes, but they're not likely to recapture the madness generated from almost three decades of deprivation.

This called for more than a rally at the airport. A parade wasn't nearly enough. Speeches only scratched the surface. A sold out stadium of well wishers was just a start.

What was required here was a combination of all of the above, a genuine, epic community blowout/religious experience. And that of course took planning.

As soon as the Packers knew they were going to the Super Bowl the team started sketching the blueprints for a bash, spinning different scenarios, crunching numbers and guessing at crowds. It turned out the last item was like trying to count snowflakes.

"We sold seats at Lambeau Field for $5, with the proceeds going to local charities through the Packer Foundation," said Packer marketing director Jeff Cieply. "They were all gone in eight hours.

"We went over the 'what if' scenarios, like what if the plane was late or the weather was terrible. But there were a lot more people on the parade route than we thought there would be. The police, everybody, was floored. But that's a heck of a lot better than if you gave a parade and nobody came."

Co-sponsoring the event and beaming it all over the Dairy State was Milwaukee television station WTMJ, which sent about half its staff to talk to the celebrants and wound up needing everyone who made the trip.

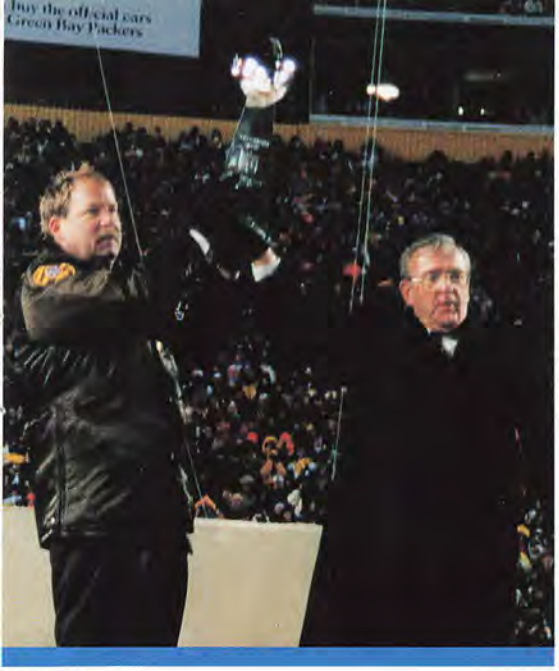
Little did they know how close they'd come to a video nightmare. While the Packer planes were leaving New Orleans, the winter skies were beginning to lower back home. That created the very real possibility that the champs would have to fly right over Green Bay and land in Minnesota Viking country where the population wasn't nearly as excited about the Packers' triumph.

About an hour out of Austin Straubel Field Reggie White started praying, and chaos was averted. You can call that a coincidence if you want.

Parins meanwhile was working his way through a worry list. First he was wondering what would have happened if the Packers had lost. Then he was concerned that they couldn't land. But the real problems started shortly after the plane touched down.

"We landed at about 1:30 and when we saw what was waiting for us, everybody got choked up," he said. "When we boarded the buses and got to Highway 172 we saw all these schoolkids wearing their Packer T-shirts over their winter coats and waving and cheering."

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS XXXI



The enthusiasm never cooled, but the players, club officials and their wives did shortly thereafter when the bus windows were pulled down to allow the fans to get up close and personal with their heroes.

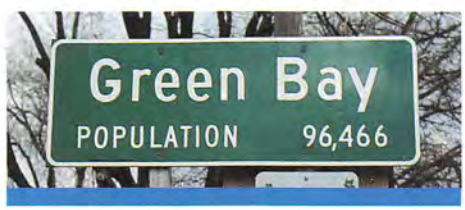
The theory was sound from a public relations standpoint but faulty from a physiological point of view, since most of the passengers were still dressed for Louisiana. Along the way, coach Mike Holmgren made a quick visit to a Brown County sheriff's car to borrow a lieutenant's jacket, proving that he's a man who can think on his feet even when his toes are frozen.

The Packers have mastered worst conditions on the field, but they've always been dressed for them. And they've known the game would be over in three hours or so. This competition went into quadruple overtime.

The plan called for the buses to take a couple of hours to negotiate the streets of Green Bay before arriving at Lambeau for the official ceremony. Trouble was the 200,000 or so people lining the parade route were far more interested in touching a Packer than they were in the plan.

"The route took almost five hours," Parins recalled. "People came right up to the buses, and a lot of times we just stood there. They got between the buses, and we couldn't move.

"Once we got into the city of Green Bay, we had two policemen walking alongside every



bus. They walked two or three miles with us, but the people just wanted to see things and take pictures.

"The biggest safety concern was people slipping because of the snow and ice as we tried to inch through them. The bus drivers did an incredible job."

The folks in front of the WTMJ cameras weren't bad either. While the parade poked along, they struggled to fill five hours worth of costly air time with two hours worth of information. You don't get scintillating television that way, but you do get some candid interviews.

For example:

Interviewer to Breathless Young Thing in the stands. "What do you think of all of this?"

Breathless Young Thing: "Well, my boyfriend asked me to marry him last month and I just decided to say yes."

Int: "Wow! You're making the announcement right now?"

BYT: "Yup."

Int: "That's fantastic. What made you make up your mind? Was it just all the excitement here?"

BYT: "That and the beer."

No doubt there was some liquid enthusiasm flowing in the course of the entertainment, but most of it served as anti-freeze. When the Packers finally made their way to the stadium almost eight hours after the parking lots began to fill, the seats were still occupied.

A day of waiting was rewarded by barely a half hour of speaking, but the customers seemed to think they got a bargain. The Packers knew they did.

"You don't look at something like this from a revenue standpoint," said Cieply. "The idea was to do our best to put on a quality event and let as many people as possible be a part of it."

Good plan, better results. The celebration, like the season, was a stunning success.

THE WHITE HOUSE VISIT: With Executive President Ron Wolf, President Bob Harlan and Head Coach Mike Holmgren looking on, President Bill Clinton welcomes the Packers to the White House, a first such team visit in the team's 78-year history, on May 18.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

XXXI

October 6, 1953
YOU'RE PENALIZED FOR FACE MASKING AND YOU WONDER, WHAT KIND OF SISSY WEARS A FACE MASK?
There was a time, not so long ago, in football when the only face mask you wore was the one God gave you. There's a history behind everything. Only one channel gives you the perspective of actually being there.
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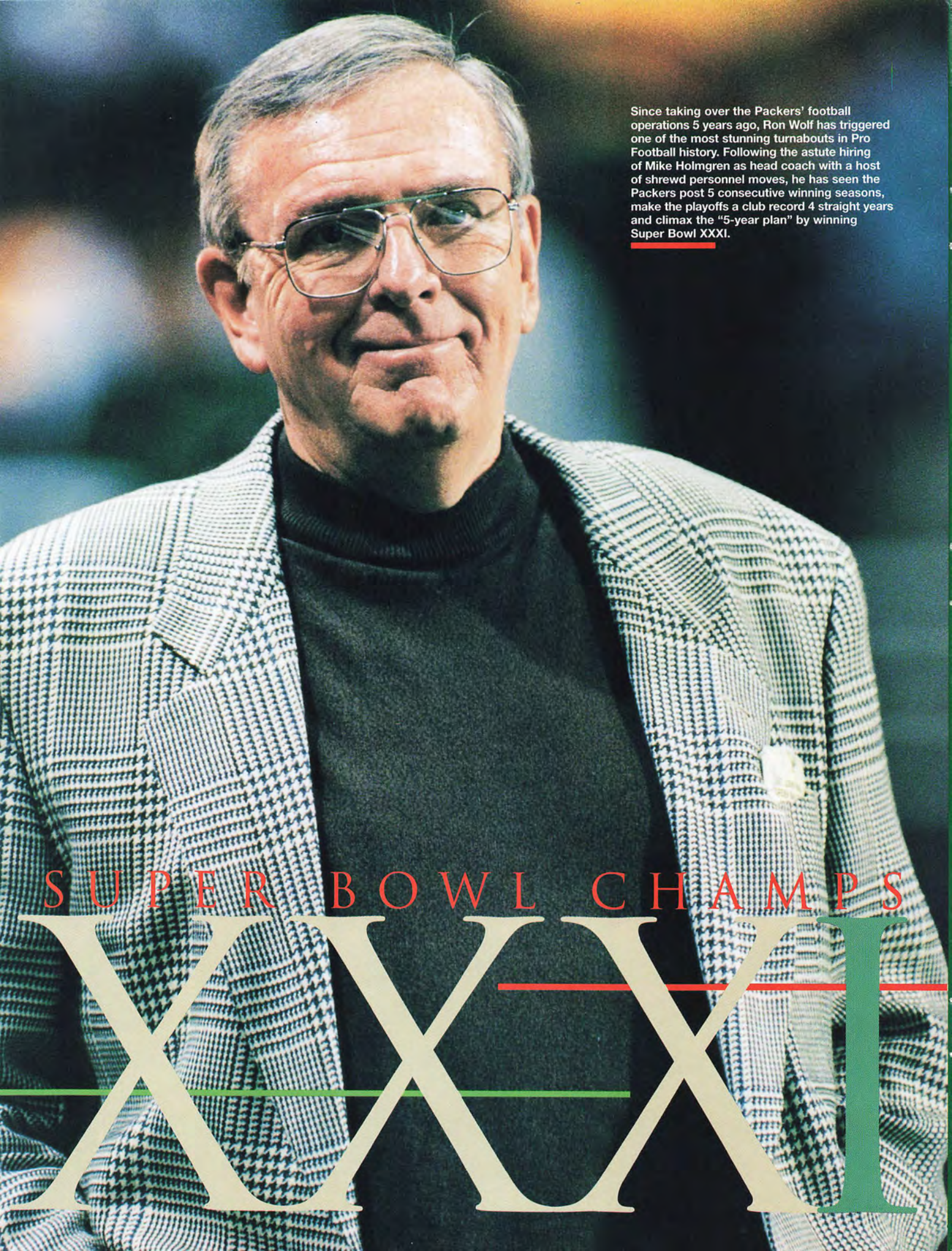

Since taking over the Packers' football operations 5 years ago, Ron Wolf has triggered one of the most stunning turnabouts in Pro Football history. Following the astute hiring of Mike Holmgren as head coach with a host of shrewd personnel moves, he has seen the Packers post 5 consecutive winning seasons, make the playoffs a club record 4 straight years and climax the "5-year plan" by winning Super Bowl XXXI.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

XXXI

BY TOM MULHERN
Appleton Post-Crescent

HOW THE SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS WERE BUILT

On the airplane ride back home home from New Orleans the day after the Super Bowl, Green Bay Packers general manager Ron Wolf couldn't shake a feeling.

It wasn't one of contentment, or excitement, or elation, or exhaustion, all the normal emotions one would expect to be jumbled around inside his head.

The one overwhelming thing Wolf remembers thinking about is how far behind the Super Bowl had put him in his normal offseason preparations for the next season.

"We were thinking about all the things we had to do and how far behind we were, that type of thing," recalled Wolf.

Less than 24 hours removed from the crowning achievement of his 34-year career in professional football—having taken the Packers from the depths of the National Football League to Super Bowl champions in five seasons—Wolf was already fretting about the next season.

Perhaps nothing better illustrates Wolf's round-the-clock devotion to his job than that story. One imagines if there would have been a chance to sign somebody, or make a trade, while the plane was still in the air, Wolf would have jumped at the chance.

"If there's a need on this club to be filled, he fills it immediately," said Packers president Bob Harlan. "I just think his work ethic, the fact he works 24 hours a day, 12 months out of the year to make this team better—if it's not one thing one day, it's something else the next. I just have total admiration for the man."

So, the day after arriving back in Green Bay from New Orleans, Wolf showed up for work early in the morning as usual for another in a continuing series of 12-hour days. Free agency was just around the corner, there was a draft to prepare for and more personnel decisions to be made. There was precious little time to savor one of the most remarkable reclamation projects the NFL had seen in the last quarter century.

Wolf calls quarterback Brett Favre, for whom he traded a first round draft choice in 1992, "as exciting a player as ever graced Lambeau Field, or any field in the NFL, for that matter."

"It's still seven days a week and it'll be seven days a week through this weekend," Wolf said in an interview from his office at the end of April. "Then it's over. Then maybe we can sit down and say, 'Wow!'"

No word better sums up what has transpired since Wolf arrived in Green Bay in 1991 and took over a franchise in the midst of a four-win season, one that had managed just five winning seasons in the last 24 years.

"I'll tell you what, every once in a while you just say to yourself, 'This is really something. Gol-ly,'" Wolf said, drawing out the last word. "Just think about that. You're the world champions. It's a remarkable story. There are so many people that are to be congratulated about the achievements we have here.

"I certainly thank Bob Harlan for the opportunity he gave me and his belief in me. I don't know that you can ever repay that. How do you repay that? How many times can you say thank you without it getting silly?"

Wolf has repaid that faith the only way he knows how, by constructing a championship team and helping to restore glory to a proud franchise.

There was no five-year plan when he arrived, just a personal mandate to do whatever it took to win as soon as possible and the full authority to carry it out.

"A lot of people certainly deserve as much credit as I've received," said Wolf. "To build this into what it's become, that's something we're really proud of here. Really and truly proud. I mean, this is the ultimate shrine here to professional football, Lambeau Field and the Green Bay Packers…This is a heck of a place."

There had never been much question about Wolf's ability to evaluate personnel. He was highly regarded around the league for his work with the Oakland-Los Angeles Raiders, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and New York Jets.

The heart of the Packers' Super Bowl team came through the draft. Of the 22 preferred

starters, counting wide receiver Robert Brooks, who was sidelined by injury, 12 were Wolf draft picks. Only three came in the first round.

Of the 49 players Wolf drafted from 1992-96, 23 were on the active roster for the Super Bowl and three more were on injured reserve.

If you are searching for a common thread in those players, here it is: "The biggest thing to me is guys who produce when called upon to play," Wolf said. "That's a very important thing. We have guys who do that. We don't have a lot of workout guys who look the part but don't really make a contribution.

"We have guys who can play the game. That, to me, is very, very important. We have tough guys. We have dedicated guys. That thing with character. Then you take the other factors, the height, weight and speed—we have very good speed on our team."

A perfect example of that is Brooks, a third-round pick who some teams regarded as undersized at 6 feet and 180 pounds. The thing that helped convince Wolf that Brooks could take over as the team's go-to receiver in 1995 is that he had filled that role in college at South Carolina.

"He carried the University of South Carolina for two years," Wolf said. "It was one of those things where numbers would indicate he couldn't do it. He's too small, he's not fast enough. But he is in fact all those things. He's got a heart of a lion."

Most teams that win a Super Bowl have a breakthrough draft and for the Packers, that occurred in 1995, when they picked an amazing five starters: cornerback Craig Newsome at the end of the first round; fullback William Henderson, linebacker Brian Williams and wide receiver Antonio Freeman in the third round; and guard Adam Timmerman in the seventh round.

"It's Ron's ability to read the draft," said Ted Thompson, the team's director of pro personnel. "It's one thing to rank players. It's another thing to be able to read the draft and figure out when and where you can get certain players. There's a certain art to that and I think he's obviously very good at that.

Wide receiver Robert Brooks, who sat out the last 9 games of the 1996 season and the playoffs following a knee injury suffered against the 49ers October 14, is expected to return to the starting lineup at full speed for the 1997 season. He set a club record for receiving yardages (1,497) in 1995.

Wide receiver/kick returner Don Beebe was one of Wolf's primary additions to his '96 roster. He finished the season as the team's no. 3 receiver with 39 catches for 699 yards, a team high 17.9 yard average and 4 touchdowns. He also averaged a team best 26.9 yards for 15 kickoff returns, with one touchdown.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

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Wolf, looking for a premium punt returner, got an unexpected bonus in Antonio Freeman, a third round draft choice in 1995. He also has surfaced as an outstanding receiver, emerging as Green Bay's top pass catcher last season with 56 receptions for 933 yards and 9 touchdowns.

"The whole thing (in '95) was set up when we were able to trade down and still get the player (Newsome) we wanted to get, and pick up another (third-round) pick. We had an extra (third-round) pick in the Corey Harris (restricted free agent who signed with Seattle) thing.

"So that third round was obviously the meat and potatoes of our draft that particular year. Not the least of which, everybody talks about the third round but we got Craig Newsome, who has played almost every down of every game since he's been here."

It is probably no coincidence that what Wolf called his best draft with the Packers occurred in his fourth season working with coach Mike Holmgren. Wolf has acknowledged it took time to fully grasp what type of players were needed to fit Holmgren's system.

Defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur has said he has never been in an organization in which the scouts and coaches work together as well as they do in this one.

"Everybody works very hard on the personnel thing here and tries to make a contribution," said Shurmur. "The areas we try to contribute in are all pretty well defined so there isn't much overlapping.

"I think this is a great situation where the football people are doing a really good job of working together."

The relationship between scouts and coaches is no accident.

"I think the way Ron has set it up is to be inclusive," said Thompson. "Some organizations don't allow coaches to be involved in the draft at all. Some organizations don't allow scouts to be involved in players that are not in their area. Ron allows open discussion, free discussion. I think it's a tribute to his working relationship with Mike Holmgren."

The ability to constantly replenish the roster with draft picks has kept the Packers surprisingly young. The average age of the 53-man roster for the Super Bowl was just 26.8 years. That's critical with the salary cap, since draft picks come relatively cheap.

Getting those players to contribute right away becomes the job of the coaching staff. A good coach can do a lot to make a personnel evaluator look good. Wolf constantly credits the work of the coaching staff, which is even more vital in the era of free agency.

"The thing that makes it work, particularly in today's game, which has changed dramatically from the way it was played four years ago, is the coaches play a much more important role in the game than they ever have before," Wolf said.

"You have to bring new players in and you have to play right away. Before, you never had that. You could season them for four or five years. You can't do that anymore, because those guys are gone. So it's tremendous pressure today on coaches. They have to function."

In the past, a general manager could build a dynasty with a few shrewd drafts. Now, that's no longer enough. He must also find a way to keep his core players intact under the salary cap and plug in the holes every year with unrestricted and "street" free agents.

Nobody in the NFL has performed that juggling act any better in recent seasons than Wolf. For evidence, look no further than last

Linebacker George Koonce, plucked from the World League of American Football in 1992 after he was waived by the Atlanta Falcons, is another prime example of Ron Wolf's personnel acumen. He led the defense in tackles in 1992, went on to play in all 16 games, with 10 starts, and became a full-time starter in 1993, when he amassed 125 stops to finish second on the team.

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Ron Wolf drafted an unheralded Craig Newsome (21) in the first round of the 1995 draft and the Arizona State alumnus became an instant starter. He has started 32 consecutive regular season games—plus 6 playoff contests—and last January set a Packers' post season record by intercepting a pass in each playoff game, including Super Bowl XXXI.

season, when five key acquisitions— defensive tackle Santana Dotson, free safety Eugene Robinson, wide receivers Don Beebe and Andre Rison and wide receiver-returner Desmond Howard—helped propel the Packers to the top.

Interestingly, each represented a different avenue for acquiring players, which underscored Wolf's ability to use whatever means necessary to build a champion. While each move paid huge dividends, it shouldn't obscure the fact they also involved some risk and were viewed as anything but sure things at the time.

The Packers had enough money to make one big signing in unrestricted free agency. After missing out on linebacker Cornelius Bennett, they targeted Dotson, who signed a three-year deal for an average of $2 million a season. Some teams around the league thought the Packers overpaid to get Dotson, but Wolf said, "It was something we felt very comfortable with all along."

Although Wolf often laments the difficulty in making trades under the current system, he was able to acquire Robinson from Seattle for backup defensive lineman Matt LaBounty. That was one of a league-high 49 trades Wolf made in his first five years with the Packers.

Robinson was a two-time Pro Bowl player whose career appeared to be in sharp decline after suffering a torn Achilles' tendon late in the 1994 season and playing hurt the next year. But he fit the mold of what the Packers were looking for at free safety, a veteran, ball-hawking player with good range and a sure tackler.

Ron Wolf, here being interviewed, is popular with the media because of his vast knowledge of personnel and the game, as well as his candor.

With Dotson and Robinson on board, the Packers jumped from the 14th ranked defense in 1995 to first last season. They also set an NFL record by allowing 19 touchdowns, the fewest in a 16-game season and takeaways jumped from 16 to 39.

"They made a huge difference in our defense," Shurmur said. "They added speed and play-making ability. They have also been contributing factors to the (returning) guys who are there, having less pressure on them. As a result, more play-making ability (by everybody)."

Beebe was a street free agent who had been released after a disappointing season with Carolina. He was signed by the Packers April 1.

Howard was technically an unrestricted free agent, having played out his contract with Jacksonville, although he was still unsigned and had no other offers a week before the start of training camp.

Although the Packers appeared to be relatively deep at the receiver position, they signed both Beebe and Howard to one-year deals for the bargain price of around $300,000.

Neither player was a sure thing to make the team in training camp, but both paid huge dividends. Beebe was an ideal third receiver who led the team with an average of 17.9 yards a reception. He also started six games when injuries rocked the position.

All Howard did was set an NFL record for punt-return yardage in a single season with 875 and take back a team-record three for touchdowns in the regular season. He added another punt return for a touchdown in the playoffs and returned a kickoff for a touchdown in the Super Bowl while becoming the first special teams player to be named that game's most valuable player.

Rison was claimed off waivers Nov. 19 after injuries had decimated the receiver position. Even though he had worn out his welcome with his last two teams while clashing with coaches and teammates, Wolf never viewed his signing as a risk.

"For $100 (waiver cost), why don't we see what in the dickens is wrong here?" he said. "Either he comes in and makes it or he doesn't make it. After we laid our seventh egg down there in Dallas, it was a no-brainer. We'd run out of receivers. We couldn't get anybody open."

The key to making this all work is deciding who a team can afford to replace and who it can't. The Packers have managed to effectively accomplish that while still maintaining one of the lowest payrolls in the league. Unlike some other teams with rich owners, they can't afford to get around the salary cap by paying out a lot of huge signing bonuses.

"Ron decides who it's mandatory to keep, who he can afford to let go," Harlan said. "His ability to combat some of those high signing bonuses, particularly drafting extremely well and picking up these (bargain) free agents, to find a Don Beebe and a Desmond Howard, people like that that fill in spots, that's a magnificent talent.

"These will be some of your players that will counter balance these high signing bonuses. Ron is outstanding at that. He works so hard to do that, you're not surprised when he finds them."

While the Packers underwent another significant turnover in personnel this past offseason, they did manage to hang onto two critical free agents, nose tackle Gilbert Brown and center Frank Winters.

"When we got both those guys we breathed a sigh of relief because we kept intact a critical part of our team," Wolf said. "I'm hoping we were right there."

Of course, the one player who makes this all work is quarterback Brett Favre. The player Wolf acquired in one of his first moves,

SUPER BOWL CHAMPS

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How The 'Super' Packers Were Built

Year	Draft (24)	Trades (2)	Free Agents (11)
1990	DB LeRoy Butler (No. 2)		
1992	WR Robert Brooks (No. 3) RB Edgar Bennett (No. 4) TE Mark Chmura (No. 6)	QB Brett Favre (Atlanta)	LB George Koonce C Frank Winters (PB)
1993	LB Wayne Simmons (No. 1a) T Earl Dotson (No. 3) S Doug Evans (No. 6a)		S Mike Prior (UFA) DE Reggie White (UFA)
1994	OG Aaron Taylor (No. 1) DE Gabe Wilkins (No. 4) WR Terry Mickens (No. 5a) RB Dorsey Levens (No. 5b)		P Craig Hentrich
1995	CB Craig Newsome (No. 1) DT Darius Holland (No. 3a) FB Wm Henderson (No. 3b) LB Brian Williams (No. 3c) WR Antonio Freeman (No. 3d) FB Travis Jervey (No. 5b) G Adam Timmerman (No. 7)	G Lindsay Knapp (KC)	DE Shannon Clavelle CB Matthew Dorsett LB Bernardo Harris QB Doug Pederson TE Jeff Thomason
1996	T John Michels (No. 1) WR Derrick Mayes (No. 2) C Mike Flanagan (No. 3a) CB Tyrone Williams (No. 3b) RB Chris Darkins (No. 4) LB Keith McKenzie (No. 7b)		TE Kyle Wachholtz (No. 7a)

Waivers: (1993) NT—Gilbert Brown, Minnesota.
(1994) G/T—Gary Brown, Pittsburgh.

trading a first-round draft pick to Atlanta, remains his best personnel move.

"We have the best player in the entire National Football League and he happens to play the key position," Wolf said. "It helps when you have that. He's 27 years old."

The one constant since Wolf arrived is that despite massive turnover in personnel, the team has always managed to get better.

Sterling Sharpe is forced to retire prematurely due to a neck injury. Brooks replaces him and the team improves.

Bryce Paup signs with Buffalo as an unrestricted free agent. Wayne Simmons replaces him and the team still improves.

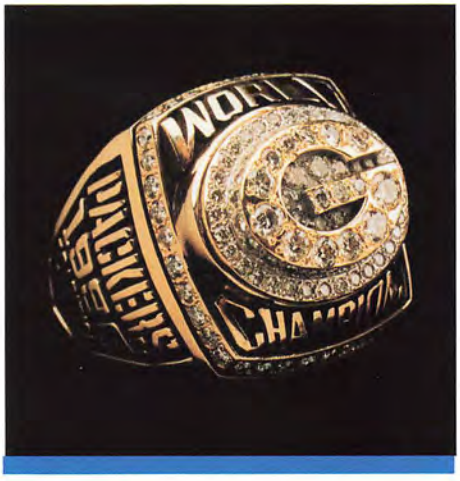
"This team here is a remarkable team," Wolf said. "It's a very resilient team. We lost a bunch of really good players to career-ending injuries. We've had to be faced with that.

"Bryce Paup left us and when he left, it showed us how to do some things. Fortunately for us, as these players left, we happened to get better and better, win more games."

That challenge becomes even more difficult on the heels of a Super Bowl season, but nobody should underestimate Wolf's ability to stock a roster.

"That's the magnificent thing about coaching here," Shurmur said. "You know they are going to do their best (to get players). It's a continual process of trying to get better. I think that's a little bit of a motivator for coaches to stay involved in the process of (evaluating players) and trying to get better.

"I've said this before, this is the best place in the world for me to do what I do because of that."



XXXI

SUPER BOWL RECORDS SET BY PACKERS IN XXXI

INDIVIDUAL SUPER BOWL RECORDS SET

- **Longest Play from Scrimmage:** 81-yard pass, Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman (old record, 80-yard pass, Jim Plunkett to Kenny King, Oakland, Super Bowl XV and Doug Williams to Ricky Sanders, Washington, Super Bowl XXII)
- **Longest Kickoff Return:** 99 yards, Desmond Howard (old record, 98 yards, by Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, Super Bowl XVII; tied by Andre Coleman, San Diego vs. San Francisco, Super Bowl XXIX)
- **Longest Kickoff Return Average, Career (minimum 4 returns):** 38.5 yards, Desmond Howard (old record, 35.4, Fulton Walker, Miami)
- **Most Punt Return Yards, Game:** 90, Desmond Howard (old record, 56, John Taylor, San Francisco, Super Bowl XXIII)
- **Most Quarterback Sacks, Game, since 1982:** 3, Reggie White (old record, 2, by 10 players)

INDIVIDUAL SUPER BOWL RECORDS TIED

- **Most Combined Yards Gained, Game:** 244, Desmond Howard (ties record set by Andre Coleman, San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX)
- **Most Yards, Combined Kick Returns, Game:** 244, Desmond Howard (ties record set by Andre Coleman, San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX)
- **Most Punt Returns, Career:** 6, Desmond Howard (ties record shared by five players)
- **Most Punt Returns, Game:** 6, Desmond Howard (ties record set by Mike Nelms, Washington, Super Bowl XVII)
- **Most Touchdowns, Kickoff Returns, Game:** 1, Desmond Howard (ties record shared by Fulton Walker, Miami, Super Bowl XVII; Stanford Jennings, Super Bowl XXIII; and Andre Coleman, San Diego, XXIX)
- **Most Two-Point Conversions, Game:** 1, Mark Chmura (ties record shared by Mark Seay, San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX, and Alfred Pupunu, San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX)

TEAM SUPER BOWL RECORDS SET

- **Most Punt Returns, Game, Both Teams:** 10 Green Bay (6) vs. New England (4) (old record, 9, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, Super Bowl IX)
- **Fewest Rushing Yards, Game, Both Teams:** 158, New England (43) vs. Green Bay (115) (old record, 159, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, Super Bowl XXX)
- **Most Yards, Punt Returns, Game:** 90, Green Bay (old record, 56, San Francisco, Super Bowl XXIII)
- **Most Yards, Punt Returns, Game, Both Teams:** 120, Green Bay (90) vs. New England (30), (old record: 74, Washington vs. Miami, Super Bowl XVII)
- **Most Points, First Quarter, Both Teams:** 24, New England (14) vs. Green Bay (10) (old record: 21, Dallas vs. Buffalo, Super Bowl XXVII and San Francisco vs. San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX)

TEAM SUPER BOWL RECORDS TIED

- **Most Interceptions, Game:** 4, Green Bay (ties record shared by four other teams)
- **Fewest Turnovers, Game:** 0, Green Bay (ties record shared by 11 other teams)
- **Most Punt Returns, Game:** 6, Green Bay (ties record set by Washington, Super Bowl XVII)
- **Fewest Rushes, Game, Both Teams:** 49, New England (13) vs. Green Bay (36) (ties record set by Miami vs. San Francisco, Super Bowl XIX)
- **Most Punts, Game, Both Teams:** 15, New England (8) vs. Green Bay (7) (ties record set by Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, Super Bowl XVIII)
- **Most Sacks, Game, Both Teams:** 10, Green Bay (5) vs. New England (5) (ties record set by Chicago vs. New England, Super Bowl XX)
- **Most Touchdowns, Kickoff Returns, Game:** 1, Green Bay (ties record shared by Miami, Super Bowl XVII; Cincinnati, Super Bowl XXIII; and San Diego, Super Bowl XXIX)
- **Fewest Fumbles, Game, Both Teams:** 0, Green Bay vs. New England (ties record shared by 8 other teams)

In defeating New England in Super Bowl XXXI, the Packers also made major revisions in their playoff records section, setting no fewer than 16 new individual marks and one team standard. The list, including 5 new career records set by quarterback Brett Favre, follows:

INDIVIDUAL POSTSEASON RECORDS SET

- **Most Rushing Attempts, Career:** 163, Edgar Bennett (10 games)
- **Most Rushing Yards Gained, Career:** 561, Edgar Bennett (10 games)
- **Most Passes Completed, Career:** 194, Brett Favre (10 games)
- **Most Passes Attempted, Career:** 317, Brett Favre (10 games)
- **Most Yards Gained on Passes, Career:** 2,430, Brett Favre (10 games)
- **Most Touchdown Passes, Career:** 18, Brett Favre (10 games)
- **Longest Completed Pass:** 81 yards, Brett Favre vs. New England, Jan. 26, 1997, touchdown) (old record, 73 yards, Brett Favre to Robert Brooks, at Dallas, Jan.14, 1996, touchdown)
- **Most Consecutive Games, One Interception:** 3, Craig Newsome (old record, 2, set by Herb Adderley, 1967, and tied by Terrell Buckley, 1993)
- **Most Points Scored, Career:** 73, Chris Jacke (10 games)
- **Most Consecutive Games, Scoring One or More Points:** 10, Chris Jacke
- **Most Field Goals Attempted, Career:** 22, Chris Jacke (10 games)
- **Most Field Goals Made, Career:** 15, Chris Jacke (10 games)
- **Most Points After Touchdown, Career:** 28, Chris Jacke (10 games)
- **Longest Kickoff Return:** 99 yards, Desmond Howard vs. New England, Jan. 26, 1997 (old record, 51 yards, Corey Harris, at Dallas, Jan. 8,1995)
- **Most Punt Returns, Game:** 6, Desmond Howard (old record, 5, Willie Wood vs. Oakland, Jan.14, 1968)

INDIVIDUAL PLAYOFF RECORDS TIED

- **Most Consecutive Field Goals Made:** 5, Chris Jacke (old record, 5, by Don Chandler, 1965)
- **Most Consecutive Games Throwing Touchdown Passes:** 6, Brett Favre (ties record set by Bart Starr)

TEAM PLAYOFF RECORDS SET

- **Most Yards on Kickoff Returns, Game:** 154 vs. New England, Jan. 26, 1997 (4 returns) (old record, 148 yards, at Dallas, Jan.16, 1983, 7 returns and 148 yards, at Dallas, Jan.14, 1996, 7 returns)

Reggie White: Most Quarterback Sacks, Game, since 1982: 3.

Longest Play from Scrimmage: 81-yard pass, Brett Favre to Antonio Freeman.

XXXI

BY KENT YOUNGBLOOD
Wisconsin State Journal

A RING... AT LAST

The final seconds of the Super Bowl were ticking down and Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre was getting ready to take a knee.

Don Beebe was preparing to take a nasty monkey off his back and fling it to the ground with the force of a Reggie White sack. He wanted to remember this moment, so here's what he did:

"I was in for the last play, and I was standing behind Brett," Beebe recalled. "And the last snap was snapped and I walked up to Brett and said, 'Can I have that ball?' And he gave it to me and said, 'Here, you deserve it.' I took that ball and went right over to my family."

The game was over and the confetti was enveloping the Packers, making them look like a Super Bowl Cinderella story, when White made tracks to the Lombardi Trophy. It was big, shiny. Tangible proof to White that he'd made the right decision four years earlier to come to Green Bay.

He raised the trophy high.

"I wanted to get that trophy and run it around the field," White said.

"I felt the fans deserved it as much as we did. And I wanted to let them know that, hey, this is not just ours, it's yours, too."

And nobody can take that away.

Beebe and White. A small, fleet wide receiver who came as a free agent to the Packers last year without a lot of fanfare, and a big, strong defensive end who made free agent headlines in 1993.

Nothing in common? Think again. These two men, bound by faith, had that faith rewarded last January. Of the hundreds of stories that exploded out of the Super Bowl XXXI victory over New England, consider these two:

While Beebe was in Buffalo, the Bills went to four Super Bowls in six years. All losses, three of them lopsided. Beebe had been to the mountain four times. Four times he'd been engulfed by an avalanche.

The fifth time was the charm.

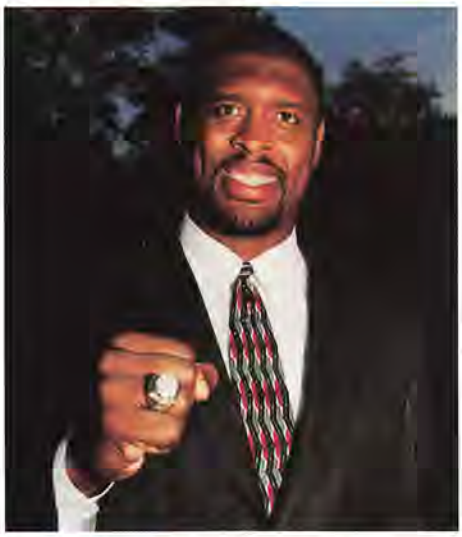
"The greatest thing about winning a Super Bowl is that it's an ongoing feeling for the rest of your life," Beebe said. "The satisfaction, it's something you can't explain. Wherever you go, whatever you do, you're going to be labeled a Super Bowl winner."

As a member of the Philadelphia Eagles White, arguably the best defensive end in NFL history, had been a part of some of the best defenses in the league. But, for the first eight seasons of his Hall of Fame career he didn't win a playoff game.

In 1993, in answer to a prayer, he was directed to Green Bay. Four years later he finally had his Super Bowl ring.

"My career would have been incomplete as a professional football player," White said. "But it wouldn't have been incomplete as a person."

The importance of January's victory runs deep for both players. Start with Beebe:



A beaming Reggie White, who waited 12 long years for the opportunity, flashes his Super Bowl ring the night of the Packers' ring ceremony.

Don Beebe quietly celebrates Super Bowl victory in dressing room with his son Chad.

Until last year when you thought of him you probably remembered him running down Leon Lett and punching the ball from his hands to prevent a late touchdown in a lopsided loss to Dallas in Super Bowl XXVI. A noble play, yes. But a noble play in another nasty defeat.

"I didn't want to go through the rest of my life not knowing what it was like to win one," Beebe said.

After the Bills had lost their fourth straight Super Bowl, the organization gave all of the players who had been on all four teams a mahogany box with room at every corner for an AFC championship ring. Beebe had some extra work done on his. He had a fifth slot made, in the middle. A slot that would hold a Super Bowl championship ring.

The hole in that box served as a metaphor for the hole in his career.

"I think it almost was," Beebe said. "I thought that, hopefully, I'd be able to fill it. And I have. I really have accomplished everything I set out to do. I only have one incentive, to be the first player in NFL history to play on six Super Bowl teams. Right now that's big to me."

The difference between getting to a Super Bowl and winning one?

"It's everything," Beebe said. "When you lose you spend the off-season talking about it. It's just gnawing at you. Now, when you win it, everywhere you go it's like, 'Great game. Great year.' And it's so neat. Especially in Green Bay. Everyone here is so...overwhelming.

"For me the last few minutes (of the Super Bowl) were almost like a relief. It's like, 'Gosh, man, I'm finally going to win this thing. I'm finally going to get that Super Bowl championship ring. Then, when the gun went off, I really had nothing in my mind other than getting that game ball."

White had spent his career trying to get to the Super Bowl. When he finally got there—and won—his reaction was a little surprising.

"I look back now and I know I was trying to anticipate how it would feel when I woke up the next morning," he said. "And there really wasn't anything there. I mean, I was excited—don't get me wrong. But, the thing I was most excited about was seeing what God had done over the last four years."

Don't get him wrong. White—the NFL's career sack leader—felt immense personal satisfaction. The man who had rewritten the NFL standards for defensive end didn't want to leave the game without a ring.

"It was exhilarating," White said. "I'm not going to sit here and say that it wasn't. But I tell you, it's not over. When my career is over then I can evaluate it. This is everything I thought it would be. But you know what? I want another one."

For White, winning the Super Bowl was proof that God had a plan when he sent White to Green Bay in 1993.

"I think it was a reward for doing what God told me to do," White said. "When I came here, everyone thought I was crazy and I thought I was crazy, too. I swore to God growing up that I'd never play in a cold weather town. And now I'm about to become a (year-around) resident."

Beebe felt relief, White a form of revelation. But both men, devout Christians, used the Super Bowl victory to spread their word.

"I'm not in this for the fame and fortune," Beebe said. "I'm in this to touch people's lives. Winning a Super Bowl has opened a lot of doors to be able to go out and speak to churches."

Said White: "I want to impact people's lives. I think winning a championship gave me an opportunity to further that."

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HARD KNOCKS PAY OFF FOR

DORSEY LEVENS

BY PETER JACKEL
Racine Journal Times

His formal college education was at first Notre Dame and then Georgia Tech, but Herbert Dorsey Levens earned his masters degree from the college of hard knocks.

Make that the college of really, really hard knocks.

Such hard knocks that Levens used to be woozy when he staggered back to the huddle after continually slamming into linebackers as a blocking fullback during the Packers' training camp in 1995. Such hard knocks that nagging self-doubts over his new role as a woefully undersized fullback competed with some hellacious headaches for prominence inside Levens' head during that long hot summer.

Eighteen months earlier, he was putting the finishing touches on a brilliant career at Georgia Tech, where he averaged a school-record 7.2 yards per carry as a senior tailback. And 18 months later, during the stretch drive of the 1996 season, he would be coming out of nowhere to play a vital role in the Packers winning their first Super Bowl in 29 years.

"Being a fifth-round draft pick, anytime you have an opportunity to get on the football field, you have to take advantage of it ."

But during that summer of 1995, Edgar Bennett was firmly established as the primary running back in Green Bay and Levens, a second-year player, was to the Packers' offense what Ringo Starr used to be as a lead singer on Beatles' albums—very seldom heard from.

"When I first got here, you could see the things Dorsey could do when he had a ball in his hands," Packers' running backs coach Harry Sydney said. "But at the same time, we didn't have a fullback that was developed yet."

So there Levens was, all 230 pounds of him, determined to find playing time as a blocking fullback that season even if it killed him.

Considering he was giving away 15 to 20 pounds to the linebackers he was assigned to take out of Bennett's running lanes, it almost did kill him.

"When you're running full speed at a linebacker and hitting him head on, you're coming back to the huddle and you're seeing double and triple," Levens said. "You're kind of walking a little wobbly and it's like, `I'm feeling this, I'm not stable, yet I've got about 30 seconds to gather myself and go do it again.'"

As Levens continued to sacrifice his body against the likes of George Koonce, Brian Williams, Wayne Simmons and Fred Strickland during those practices, the doubts—and headaches—intensified. He willingly did what the Packers' coaching staff

asked of him, but with the running skills he had demonstrated in college, asking him to block as his primary role was a little like asking Picasso to paint your garage.

"I wasn't a true fullback in the sense that I was 245 or 250 pounds," Levens said. "I was only 230 pounds at the time and I was trying to dig out linebackers who were 240 or 245. Most of the time, I would get a stalemate, but I wouldn't really dig anybody out of the hole, so I was frustrated."

But while Levens constantly lost his marbles while performing his kamikaze blocking missions, he never lost his perspective. Hey, the guy was a former fifth-round draft choice. When you're the 149th player taken in the NFL draft—as Levens was in 1994—and you rushed for all of 15 yards as a rookie, you're far better off being seen and not heard as far as coaching staffs are concerned.

"Being a fifth-round draft pick, anytime you have an opportunity to get on the football field, you have to take advantage of it," Levens said. "I was just going to keep my mouth shut and go out and play because in this league, opportunities are limited.

"They didn't owe me anything, so my whole thing was, 'Keep your mouth shut, go out there and play and let your athletic ability speak for you instead of going in and complaining about your playing time.'"

Levens' athletic ability spoke volumes.

Bennett went on that season to become the first Packer since Terdell Middleton in 1978 to break the 1,000-yard rushing barrier, so Levens at least held his own as a blocker. But when Packers head coach Mike Holmgren and his staff would review game films each week over the course of the season, they would watch Levens do far more than simply sacrifice his body.

They would watch him make plays in his limited opportunities.

Levens still wasn't much of a running threat in 1995—he rushed for just 120 yards on 36 carries—but he was making things happen as a receiver, much as Dallas Cowboys fullback Daryl Johnston has done for years. He caught 48 passes that season, fourth on the team, for 434 yards, providing quarterback Brett Favre with a vital option during the first of his two straight MVP seasons.

"Being his running backs coach and being an ex-player in this league, I saw he wasn't your physical blocker as far as being dominating," said Sydney, a former player with the San Francisco 49ers. "He was best when he had the ball in his hands, whether it was a screen, dive or draw.

"The things he does when he has the ball in his hands because of his size, speed and quickness...I mean, he's a threat."

Levens said he prayed during the 1995 season for things to somehow work out for him. The man upstairs was obviously listening, because Levens started seeing positive developments throughout 1996.

First, William Henderson, a 248-pound fullback the Packers had drafted in 1995, demonstrated in minicamps that he had grasped Holmgren's complex West Coast Offense and would be able to step in as a starter as a second-year player.

Second, Levens' chronic sore left ankle, which had been scoped in January 1996, gradually started improving. "I got stronger and healthier," Levens said.

Oh, and then there was something else: Levens, in effect, was fired as a starter by Holmgren during the 1996 training camp.

"Basically, when coach Holmgren told me I wasn't going to start anymore, he said, 'Just because you're not going to start doesn't mean you're not going to be on the field.' He said, 'You're a better athlete when you have the ball in your hands. We're going to try and give you the ball more and lessen your blocking responsibilities.'

"I wasn't happy about it in any way because I was a starter and I lost that. I don't think that's something to be proud of. I didn't know how much I would be playing. As the year went along, I started playing a little more because I was producing."

Did Levens ever produce. After a slow start, during which he struggled to gain the confidence of Holmgren and Sydney, Levens came into his own.

Let's break Levens' season into two halves: Through the 12th game of the regular season, against the St. Louis Rams Nov. 24, Levens had rushed 80 times for 299 yards (3.7 yards per carry) and caught 24 passes for 185 yards (7.7 per reception).

Running Backs

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Edgar Bennett*	6	6'0"	217	28
Dorsey Levens*	4	6'1"	235	26
William Henderson	3	6'1"	248	26
Travis Jervey	3	6'0"	225	24
Chris Darkins	2	6-0	215	23

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Jerald Sowell, 6-0, 248, Tulane.

Now try these numbers on for size: Over the Packers' final seven games, a stretch which concluded with the Super Bowl, Levens also carried the ball 80 times, but this time he produced 462 yards for an average of 5.8 yards per carry. During that seven-game stretch, he also caught 17 passes for 197 yards, averaging 11.5 yards per reception.

How does Levens account for that emergence? Aside from his ankle feeling better than it had in a few years, he felt pressure to perform big-time on the still-limited occasions when Holmgren called his number.

"Definitely," Levens said. "Everytime I touched the ball, I felt I HAD to do something with it because I didn't know how many opportunities I was going to get. Sometimes things don't work out. Sometimes a defensive lineman breaks loose and you get hit for a five-yard loss in the backfield. Those are things you have to bounce back from because you know you're not going to get the ball too many times."

That feeling must have overwhelmed Levens in the the Packers' 30-13 victory over the Carolina Panthers in the NFC championship game at Green Bay last Jan. 12, because he had the performance of his life. Taking advantage of the Panthers' consistent blitzing, Levens found enough daylight to rush for a career-high 88 yards on just 11 carries.

But what fans remember of Levens that day is the spectacular 29-yard touchdown reception he caught in the corner of the Lambeau Field end zone from Favre, enabling the Packers to overcome an early 7-0 deficit. For the day, Levens caught five passes for 117 yards, meaning he was directly responsible for 205 of the Packers' 479 yards that day.

"He was special in a special game," Holmgren said afterward. "Performances like that in games like this...I really believe that the cream rises to the top in important games."

So now you would think the Packers have a problem. Levens, whose average of 4.7 yards per carry during the regular season last year was second only to Barry Sanders' average of 5.1 among the NFC's top 20 rushers, has certainly earned a far more prominent role in the Packers' offense.

But wait a second, here. Bennett is still just 28 years old and only two years removed from his 1,000-yard season. With 899 yards last season, he moved into seventh place on the Packers' all-time rushing list, so he has a pretty persuasive case for wanting the ball, too.

How can two running backs of this caliber possibly continue co-existing on the same team?

Just watch.

"We motivate each other because we both want to play and we both know that the better we play, the more we stay on the field, so we push each other," Levens said. "We motivate each other. There's never any resentment off the field. There's never anything where we don't speak to each other because this happened or that happened.

"It's a game and we're teammates. Without that kind of relationship, I don't think we could have went as far as we did."

But that's what Levens was saying a few months after winning the Super Bowl. How will he react if he's still getting five-to-seven carries a game well into next season?

Again, just watch. Levens shared the limelight before, first at Nottingham High School in Syracuse, N.Y., with E.J. Dowdell and then at Georgia Tech with William Bell and Jimmy Lincoln and he did so on both occasions without so much as a whimper.

Levens was impressive enough in high school to earn first-time honors on Parade Magazine's All-American team and earn a scholarship to Notre Dame (he later transferred to Georgia Tech). And he was impressive enough in college to be drafted by an NFL team, so he had to have been doing something right in his limited role.

"Some people may raise an eyebrow at that, but he knew the talent E.J. had," said Lorenzo Jackson, Levens' coach at Nottingham. "He was just going to do the best he could when he got the chance and that E.J. might throw a good block for him. It was a one-hand-washes-the-other kind of thing.

"You look at a person like that who had so much going for him and yet, he never put himself on a pedestal and looked down at people. He would basically walk the hallways at school just like any other student. When people wanted to put him on a pedestal, he would shy away. He always thought, `How do you get up this high without help from others?'"

Greg Nord, Levens' position coach at Georgia Tech who has since moved on to Louisville, found those same qualities.

"Their senior year, they just fed off each other," said Nord, also referring to Bell. "Dorsey was very unselfish and did what was best for the team.

"He was very, very intelligent and very well spoken. He was the kind of person who always made sure he signed that last autograph for a kid."

Levens also is practical about sharing time with Bennett.

"The average life span for a running back now, I think, is 3,4 years and we're both past that," Levens said. "So the less pounding you take, the longer your career will be. I think it will benefit both of us.

"Eventually, I'd like to be a No. 1 guy, but what do we do? We just won a Super Bowl doing something that worked. Our system works—period. There's no ifs, ands or buts about it.

"Edgar playing on first and second down and me coming in occasionally on third down or in single-back sets...it works. We're very effective like that. So although both of us want to be a No. 1 back, how much can you complain when you've just won a Super Bowl doing something that works?"

Not that Levens would have complained anyway.

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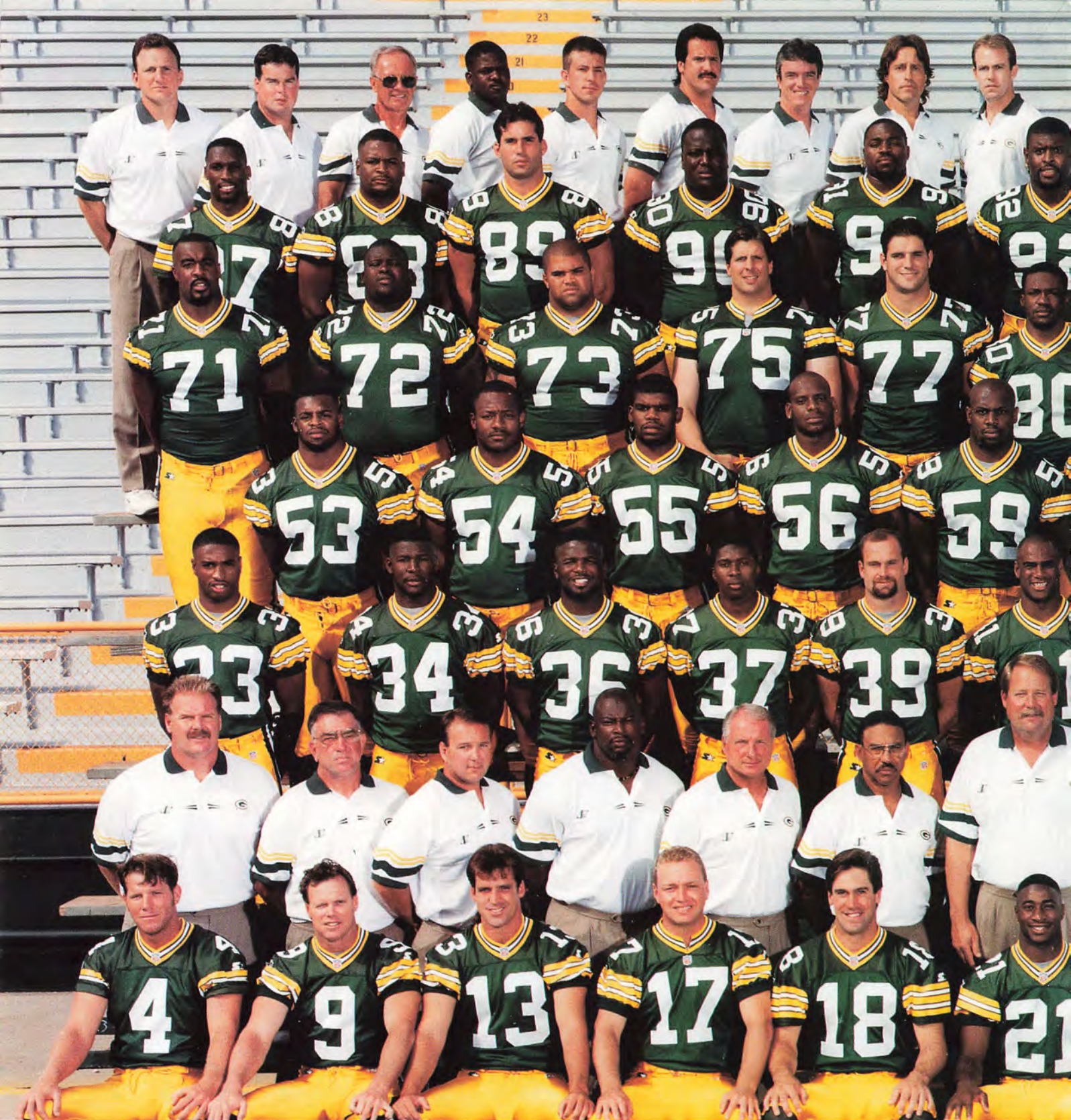
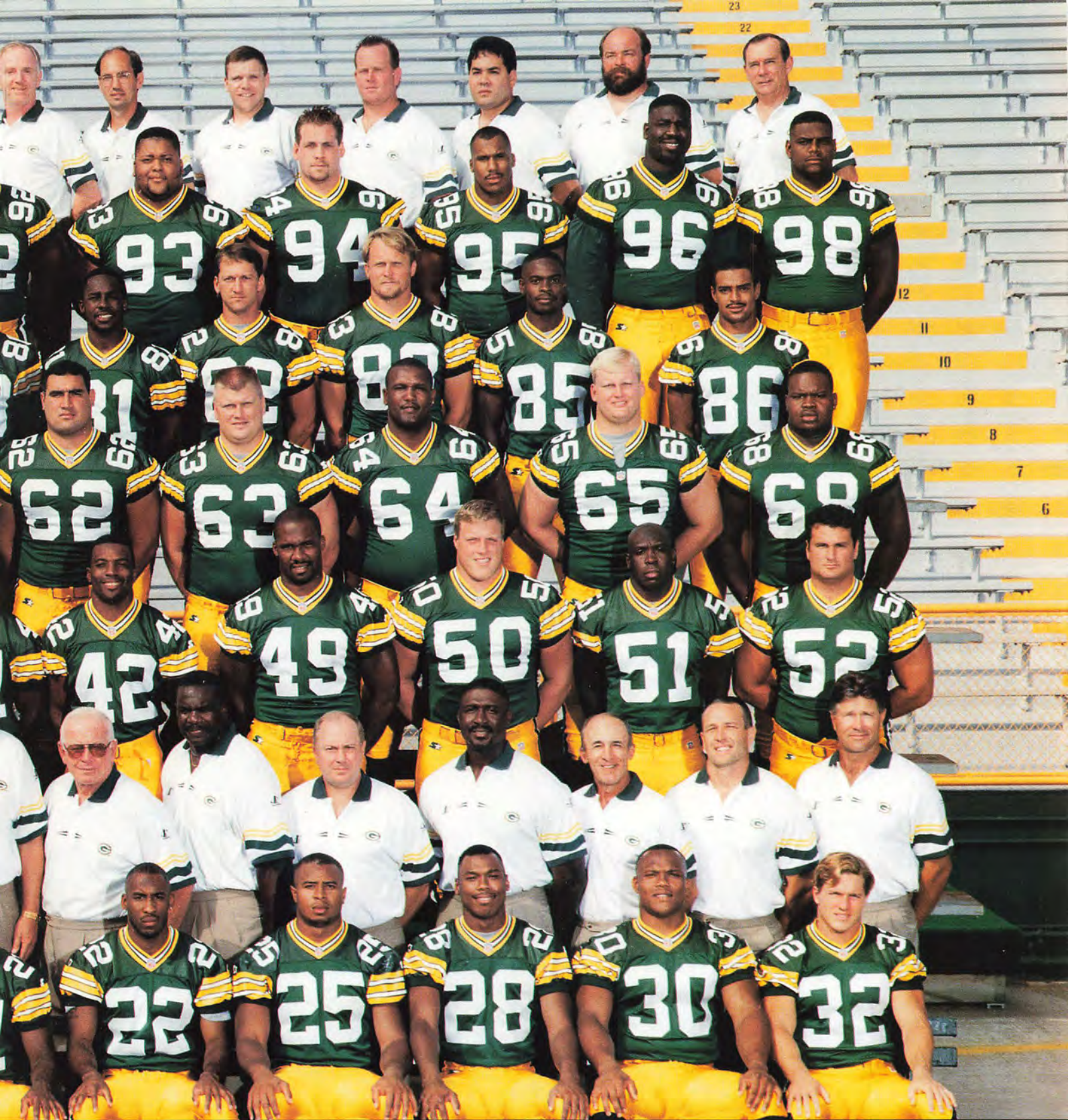


THE WORLD CHAMPION

4	Brett Favre
9	Jim McMahon
13	Chris Jacke
17	Craig Hentrich
18	Doug Pederson
21	Craig Newsome
25	Dorsey Levens
28	Roderick Mullen
30	William Henderson
32	Travis Jervey
33	Doug Evans
34	Edgar Bennett
36	LeRoy Butler
37	Tyrone Williams
39	Mike Prior
41	Eugene Robinson
42	Corey Dowden
49	Kevin Smith
50	Mike Arthur
51	Brian Williams
52	Frank Winters
53	George Koonce
54	Ron Cox
55	Bernardo Harris
56	Lamont Hollinquest
59	Wayne Simmons
62	Marco Rivera
63	Adam Timmerman
64	Bruce Wilkerson
65	Lindsay Knapp
68	Gary Brown
71	Santana Dotson
72	Earl Dotson
73	Aaron Taylor
75	Ken Ruettgers
77	John Michels
80	Derrick Mayes
81	Desmond Howard
82	Don Beebe
83	Jeff Thomason
85	Terry Mickens
86	Antonio Freeman
87	Robert Brooks
88	Keith Jackson
89	Mark Chmura
90	Darius Holland
91	Shannon Clavelle
92	Reggie White



GREEN BAY PACKERS (16-3)

93 Gilbert Brown
94 Bob Kuberski
95 Keith McKenzie
96 Sean Jones
98 Gabe Wilkins

Coaches –Row 2:
Andy Reid, Tight ends/assist. off. line
Tom Lovat, Offensive line
Marty Mornhinweg, Quarterbacks
Harry Sydney, Running backs
Gil Haskell. Wide receivers
Sherman Lewis, Offensive coordinator
Mike Holmgren, Head coach
Fritz Shurmur, Defensive coordinator
Larry Brooks, Defensive line
Jim Lind, Linebackers
Johnny Holland, Def. assist./quality cont.
Bob Valesente, Defensive backs
Kent Johnston, Strength & conditioning
Nolan Cromwell, Special teams

Non-Players—Row 7:
Barry Rubin, Strength & cond. assistant
Gary Reynolds, Off. assist./quality cont.
Jerry Parins, Corporate security officer
Andre Daniel, Training room. intern
Sam Ramsden, Assistant trainer
Kurt Fielding, Assistant trainer
Pepper Burruss, Head trainer
Dr. John Gray, Assoc. team physician
Dr. Patrick McKenzie, Team physician
Gordon "Red" Batty, Equip. manager
Bryan Nehring, Assist. equip. manager
Tom Bakken, Assist. equip. manager
Tim O'Neill, Equipment assistant
Chris Kirby, Video assistant
Bob Eckberg, Assist. video director
Al Treml, Video director

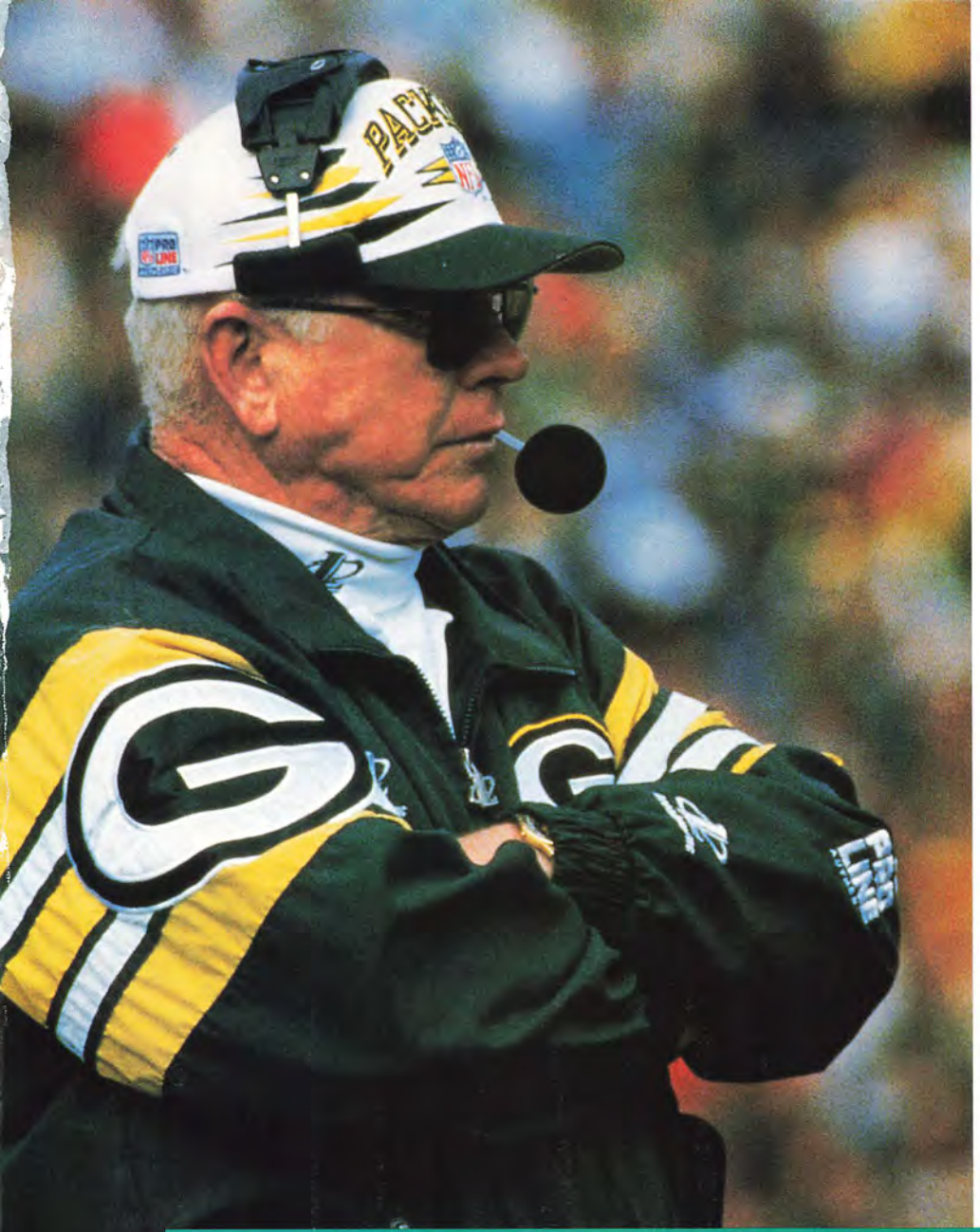
1997 GREEN BAY PACKERS

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Games PL/ST	NFL Exp	Birthdate	Hometown	College
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	183	16/6	9	12/18/64	Maple Park, IL	Chadron State
34	Bennett, Edgar	RB	6-0	217	16/15	6	2/15/69	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	0/0	13	5/11/62	Norristown, PA	UCLA
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	180	7/7	6	6/23/70	Greenwood, SC	South Carolina
68	Brown, Gary	T	6-4	315	8/5	4	6/25/71	Brentwood, NY	Georgia Tech
93	Brown, Gilbert	NT	6-2	325	16/16	5	2/22/71	Detroit, MI	Kansas
36	Butler, LeRoy	S	6-0	200	16/16	8	7/19/68	Jacksonville, FL	Florida State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	250	13/13	6	2/22/69	South Deerfield, MA	Boston College
91	Clavelle, Shannon	DE	6-2	287	8/0	3	10/12/72	New Orleans, LA	Colorado
44	Darkins, Chris	RB	6-0	215	0/0	2	4/30/74	Houston, TX	Minnesota
67	Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6-6	300	3/0	12	2/14/63	Wausau, WI	Wisconsin
23	Dorsett, Matthew	CB	5-11	190	0/0	3	8/23/73	New Orleans, LA	Southern
72	Dotson, Earl	T	6-4	315	15/15	5	2/17/71	Beaumont, TX	Texas A & I
71	Dotson, Santana	DT	6-5	285	16/15	6	12/19/69	Houston, TX	Baylor
27	Edwards, Brad	S	6-2	210	0/0	9	2/22/66	Fayetteville, NC	South Carolina
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-1	190	16/16	5	5/13/70	Haynesville, LA	Louisiana Tech
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	225	16/16	7	10/10/69	Kiln, MS	So. Mississippi
58	Flanagan, Mike	C	6-5	290	0/0	2	11/10/73	Sacramento, CA	UCLA
86	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-1	190	12/12	3	5/27/72	Baltimore, MD	Virginia Tech
26	Greenwood, Carl	CB	5-11	186	0/0	3	3/11/72	Corpus Christi, TX	UCLA
55	Harris, Bernardo	LB	6-2	243	16/0	3	10/15/71	Chapel Hill, NC	North Carolina
30	Henderson, William	FB	6-2	248	16/11	3	2/19/71	Chester, VA	North Carolina
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	16/0	4	5/18/71	Alton, IL	Notre Dame
90	Holland, Darius	DT	6-5	310	16/0	3	11/10/73	Las Cruces, NM	Colorado
56	Hollinquest, Lamont	LB	6-3	243	16/0	4	10/24/70	Downey, CA	USC
81	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	196	0/0	5	11/8/70	Wilkes-Barre, PA	Syracuse
32	Jervey, Travis	FB	5-11	225	16/0	3	5/5/72	Isle of Palms, SC	The Citadel
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G	6-6	300	9/0	5	2/25/70	Deerfield, IL	Notre Dame
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	243	16/16	6	10/15/68	Vanceboro, NC	East Carolina
94	Kuberski, Bob	DE	6-4	295	1/0	3	4/5/71	Folsom, PA	Navy
54	Le Bel, Harper	LS	6-4	250	0/0	9	7/14/63	Sherman Oaks, CA	Colorado State
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	235	16/1	4	5/21/70	Syracuse, NY	Georgia Tech
40	Lusk, Hendrick	TE	6-2	245	0/0	2	5/8/72	Monterey, CA	Utah
2	Matthews, Eric	WR	5-11	170	0/0	1	3/22/72	Lantana, FL	Indiana
80	Mayes, Derrick	WR	6-0	200	7/0	2	1/28/74	Indianapolis, IN	Notre Dame
95	McKenzie, Keith	LB	6-3	242	10/0	2	10/17/73	Detroit, MI	Ball State
77	Michels, John	T	6-7	290	15/9	2	3/19/73	La Jolla, CA	USC
85	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-1	198	8/5	3	2/21/71	Tallahassee, FL	Florida A & M
28	Mullen, Roderick	CB/S	6-1	204	14/0	3	12/5/72	St.Francisville, LA	Grambling State
21	Newsome, Craig	CB	6-0	190	16/16	3	8/10/71	Rialto, CA	Arizona State
18	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	215	1/0	5	1/31/68	Ferndale, WA	Northeast Louisiana
39	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	208	16/0	12	11/14/63	Chicago Heights, IL	Illinois State
62	Rivera, Marco	G	6-4	295	0/0	2	4/26/72	Elmont, NY	Penn State
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	195	16/16	13	5/28/63	Hartford, CT	Colgate
84	Schroeder, Bill	WR	6-2	198	0/0	2	1/9/71	Sheboygan, WI	UW-La Crosse
74	Scott, Walter	DE	6-3	285	0/0	2	5/18/73	Johnston, SC	East Carolina
59	Simmons, Wayne	OLB	6-3	248	16/16	5	12/15/69	Hilton Head, SC	Clemson
73	Taylor, Aaron	G	6-4	305	16/16	4	11/14/72	Concord, CA	Notre Dame
83	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-5	250	16/1	5	12/30/69	Newport Beach, CA	Oregon
63	Timmerman, Adam	T/G	6-4	295	16/16	3	8/14/71	Cherokee, IA	South Dakota St.
47	Wachholtz, Kyle	TE	6-4	235	0/0	1	5/17/72	Norco, CA	USC
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	300	16/16	13	12/19/61	Chattanooga, TN	Tennessee
64	Wilkerson, Bruce	T/G	6-5	305	14/2	11	7/28/64	Loudon, TN	Tennessee
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-5	305	16/1	4	9/1/71	Spartanburg, SC	Gardner-Webb
51	Williams, Brian	OLB	6-1	235	16/16	3	12/17/72	Dallas, TX	Southern Cal
37	Williams, Tyrone	CB	5-11	195	16/0	2	5/31/73	Bradenton, FL	Nebraska
52	Winters, Frank	C	6-3	295	16/16	11	1/23/64	Union City, NJ	Western Illinois
20	Yarborough, Ryan	WR	6-2	195	0/0	3	4/26/71	Park City, IL	Wyoming

1997 DRAFT CHOICES

				Round			
10	Conway, Brett K	6-2	195	3	3/8/75	Liburn, GA	Penn State
50	Hicks, Anthony LB	6-1	242	5	3/31/74	Arkadelphia, AK	Arkansas
7	McAda, Ronnie QB	6-3	205	7C	12/6/73	Mesquite, TX	Army
81	Miller, Chris WR	5-10	192	7A	7/10/73	Los Angeles, CA	Southern Cal
42	Sharper, Darren S	6-2	206	2	11/3/75	Glen Allen, VA	William & Mary
99	Smith, Jermaine DT	6-3	289	4	2/3/72	Augusta, GA	Georgia
35	Sowell, Jerald FB	6-0	248	7B	1/21/74	Baker, LA	Tulane
78	Verba, Ross G/T	6-4	299	1	10/31/73	W. Des Moines, IA	Iowa



A "D" FOR ALL DECADES

SHURMUR

BY MICHAEL BAUMAN
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

It was a defense for the ages.

And yet, even though it was a Super Bowl-winning defense, it probably didn't receive all of the credit that its remarkable performance deserved.

This was the defense of the 1996 Green Bay Packers. On the issue of credit, well, for the time being, winning the Super Bowl will have to suffice. And it will.

This group was not short on recognition from the football fans of Wisconsin, who knew a great thing when they saw it. But from a national perspective, the first thing that came to mind when the topic was the Packers was Brett Favre, on his way to winning a second straight Most Valuable Player award. And the second thing was the diverse and explosive offense that he led, which withstood injuries to key personnel and still prospered. And by the end of the Super Bowl, the third thing was Desmond Howard and his game-turning kick returns.

All of that attention was understandable, and all of that performance was golden. But championships are still won with defense. And the record will show that the Packers won a championship with this defense. The people on that unit were not mere bit players in the drama brought to you by the offense. They made up what the statistics and the victories clearly state was one of the finest defenses of any season.

This is not a subjective call. The numbers make the case. The Green Bay defense led the National Football League in fewest yards allowed. The Green Bay defense led the league in fewest points allowed.

And you can go inside those facts and find even more compelling numbers. In reviewing the season, Defensive Coordinator Fritz Shurmur notes, "We keep discovering things of a statistical nature."

For instance, during the regular season, the Packers allowed a total of 32 points in the first quarter, or two first-quarter points per game. That's amazing, but then look at the third quarter, in which the Packers allowed a total of 25 points.

"Absolutely astounding," Shurmur says. Even that may be an understatement.

Here's another sort of measurement. In the

last eight regular season games, the Packers had a total of seven defensive penalties. In the post-season, the defense had two penalties. That's 11 games, nine penalties. You couldn't do better if the officials were all relatives.

In that way, the Packers' defense lived up to one of the basic tenets of Shurmur's philosophy: "Play hard, but play efficiently. Don't screw the game up with mental errors, penalties."

They didn't. You could go on like this for days with details from game after game. But one number tells much of the story. The Packers set a record for fewest touchdowns allowed in a season—19—since the NFL went to a 16-game schedule in 1978. The storied defense of the 1986 Chicago Bears had held the record with 20 touchdowns allowed. This is the real meat and potatoes, the final, definitive measurement.

"Absolutely amazing," Shurmur says. "The deal is touchdowns. If you keep them out of the end zone, you've got a pretty good chance to win."

"If you keep them out of the end zone, you've got a pretty good chance to win."

In 16 out of 19 games last season, that was the case. In the regular season, the Packers surrendered an average of less than 1.2 touchdowns per game. That is somewhere between excellent and unbelievable.

If we can all agree on how extraordinary it was, then we can move on to the hows and whys. The 1995 Green Bay defense had generally been commendable. But it had come up short in the takeaways department, trailing the league with 16. This time around, though, there were some additions and adjustments made. They worked. The 1996 Packers led the National Football Conference in takeaways with 39 and turnover differential at plus-15.

The Packers made plays, big plays, routine plays, plays of all shapes and sizes. "Play fast" is another Shurmurism. It covers a world of performance in two words. It means playing with quickness and aggression, flying to the ball, and yet that is always accompanied by the notion that you must be playing smart while you are playing fast.

"I thought we had the players to do that," Shurmur said. He was correct. The Packers played fast.

The Packers addressed their defensive needs in a variety of ways. Through free agency, the Packers added Santana Dotson, at tackle.

"Athletic and fast," Shurmur said. And tall, too, at 6-5. In the era of the short dropback, Dotson was ideal for the quick, inside rush. "What Santana brings us is a guy who can get in the face of the quarterback in a hurry," Shurmur said.

At free safety, the Packers traded for a proven playmaker, 12-year veteran Eugene Robinson. He was everything they hoped for, and more.

"He still had so much range and so much ability to make plays," Shurmur says. "An excellent tackler, he really upgraded us there. He became the manager of the secondary and he got it going quickly, because he's such a bright guy."

With existing personnel the Packers made two switches in the linebacking corps. George Koonce moved from the "Plugger" (right outside linebacker) to the middle. This created an opening for Brian Williams at Koonce's former spot. Both played exceedingly well, and again, the Packers had managed to upgrade their quickness and athleticism at two positions.

"George Koonce brought us a lot of stability and again, more quickness in the middle," Shurmur says. "He played extremely well, really upgraded the position.

"Brian Williams brought a lot of quickness and athleticism and playmaking ability to our defense. He's a bright guy. Dependable."

And, at nose tackle, recovered from knee and elbow injuries, the Packers had Gilbert Brown, all 325 or 335 or 350 pounds of him, whole and healthy. This is a man of not only bulk but ability, and he became a force.

"He's our anchor in the middle," Shurmur says. "It's hard to move him. Often occupies two blockers. Totally unselfish. He creates opportunities for other players to make plays. His presence enables other players to express their athleticism."

It did not take the Green Bay defense

Shurmur discusses strategy with linebacker Wayne Simmons and secondary coach Bob Valesente.

THE HIGH-LOW APPROACH: Reggie White (92) puts claim on Chargers running back Leonard Russell high and Gilbert Brown (93) engages him from below to end this sortie against Green Bay's league-best defense.

long to make its quality known. Shurmur saw what he wanted to see in the season opener, a 34-3 rout of Tampa Bay. "Guys were flying to the ball," Shurmur recalls. "But they were not only playing fast, they were playing efficiently."

And they kept playing that way, from the beginning of September, through the end of January, from that start in Tampa to the culmination in New Orleans. You could look at the defensive lineup and see the contributions, week after week, month after month.

There was the minister of defense, Reggie White:

"The foundation of this Super Bowl." Shurmur says. "He changed everybody's image of what it meant to come to Green Bay. It used to be a sentence. Coaches would use it as a threat. Not only a great player, but a special kind of human being. Highly motivated. A building block."

And at the other defensive end, there was Sean Jones: "A great leader," Shurmur says. "A guy who was able to respond to whatever the pressures were that other people tried to put on him. Some people said he couldn't play the run. Well, people ran toward him because they chose to run away from Reggie. He responded. He made them pay a real price."

At the "Buck" or left outside linebacker position was Wayne Simmons. "I don't think there was a better linebacker playing over the tight end," Shurmur says. "He's a skilled player, and he's got a feel for playing the position consistently at a real, high, physical level."

At the corners, were Doug Evans and Craig Newsome. "I think of the big plays Doug Evans made," Shurmur says, noting just for starters huge interceptions against Philadelphia, St. Louis and against New England in the Super Bowl. "I don't think there are many better than him playing the position right now.

"Craig Newsome, the guy is the epitome of toughness, a physical player, competing at an extremely high level. And he's quicker and faster than a lot of people say."

And last but never least, the irrepressible strong safety, LeRoy Butler: "Great, instinctive feel for the ball," Shurmur says. "Gives us an opportunity for a lot of flexibility in our defense, with his ability to blitz, to rush the passer. A very smart, instinctive guy. A leader."

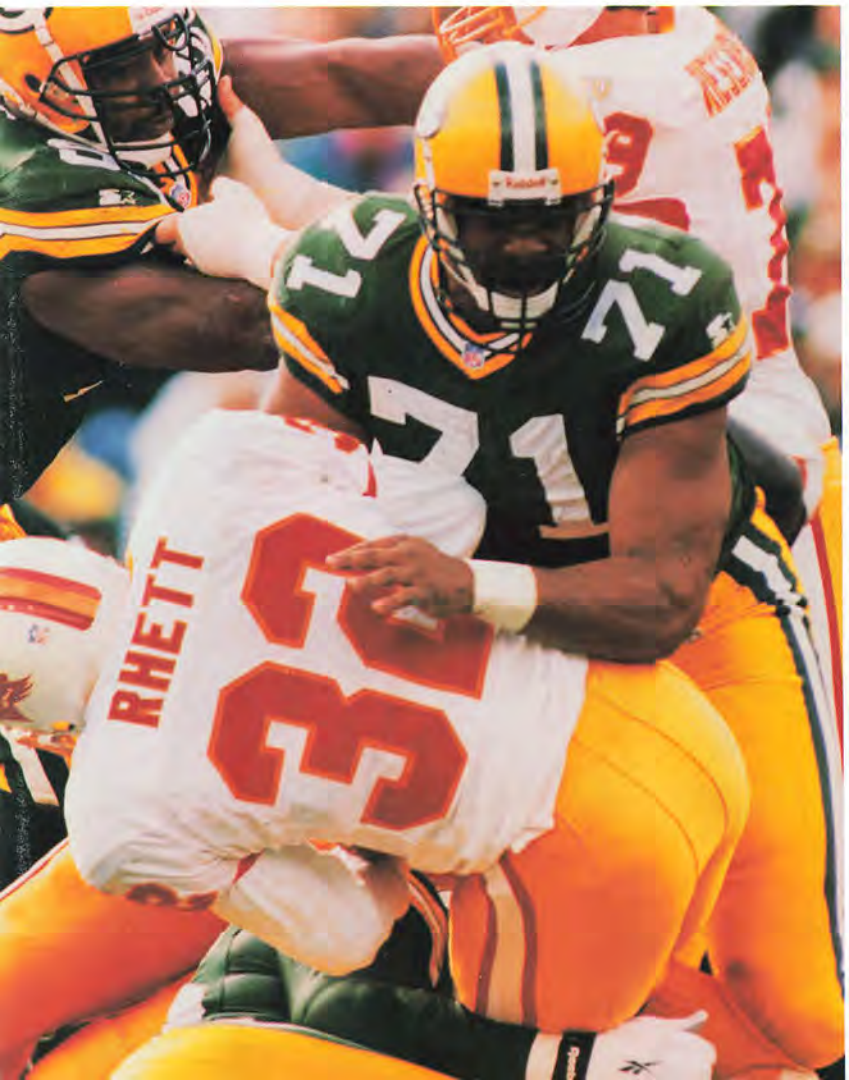
There were things you couldn't necessarily see, too, the intangible qualities that this group brought to its task. Shurmur talks about "egos in the back pocket, personal goals on the back burner, everybody pouring in, nobody dipping in."

There was "character and commitment" here, as Shurmur notes, neither in short supply. If the games became bigger, the defense became better. If success bred increasing attention it did not increase helmet sizes. The Packers never entered the era of gold chains and entourages. They were human beings playing football. Their performances were large, but their egos remained at manageable proportions.

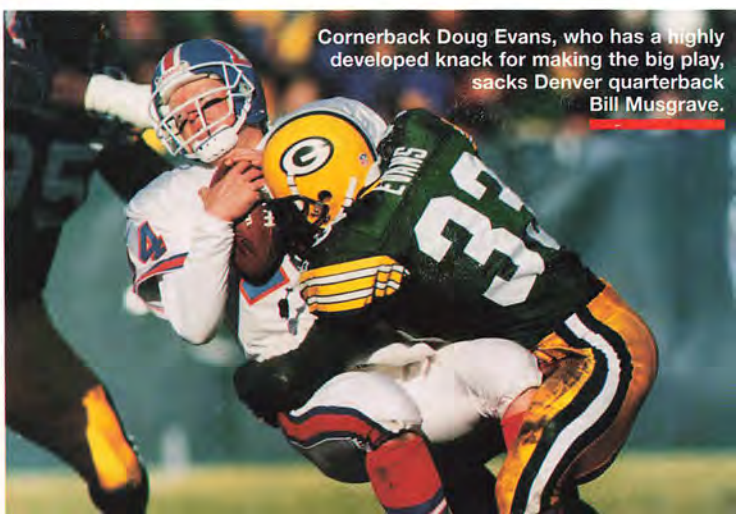
And while there was a selfless quality to this group, you also sensed a joy about it. Winning was fun. Football was fun. It was serious, it was a career, it became the dream of all Wisconsin. But it was still a game. "Our guys are totally aware that this is supposed to be fun," Shurmur says.

This was truly a team, truly a unit. It was

With assistance from Reggie White, Santana Dotson puts an abrupt stop to his former Tampa Bay teammate, running back Errict Rhett. The Packers subsequently prevailed in a low-scoring affair, 13-7.

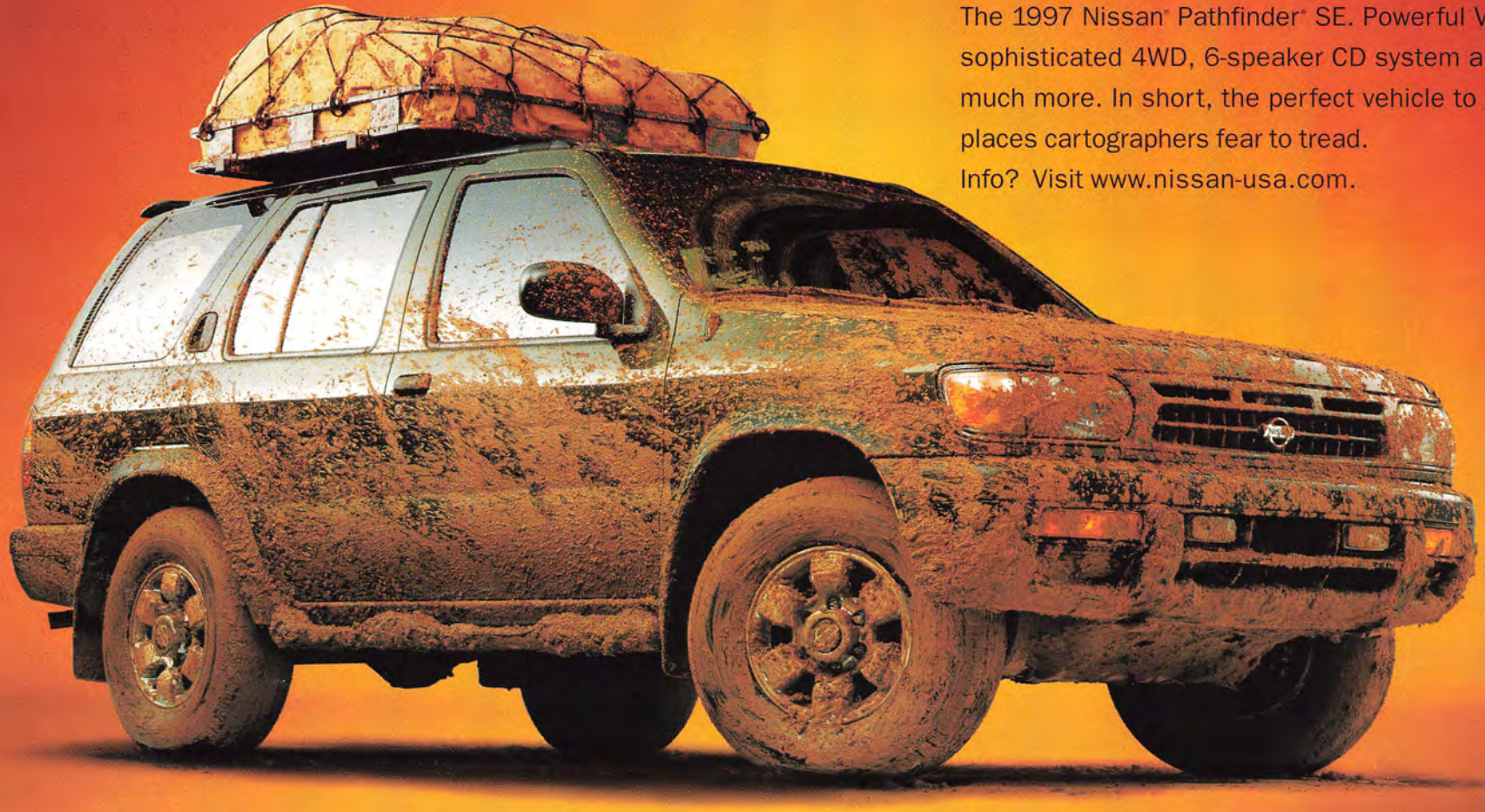


NOT SCOTT FREE: Detroit quarterback Scott Mitchell grimaces as he is brought to earth by Reggie White (92) and Darius Holland (90) during Packers' December rematch with the Lions in Pontiac.



Cornerback Doug Evans, who has a highly developed knack for making the big play, sacks Denver quarterback Bill Musgrave.

Road maps? Who the heck needs road maps.



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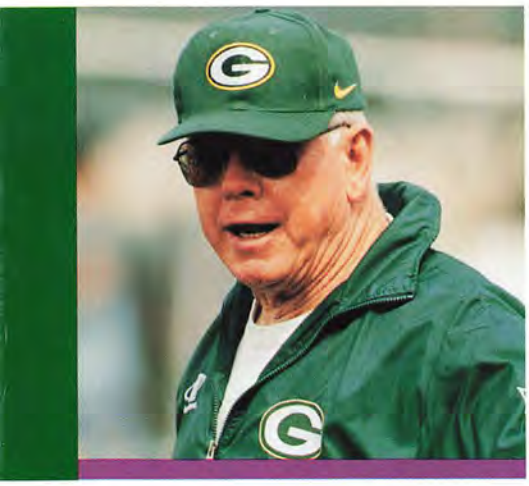
easy to support these people, not simply because they were the Pack, but because they were were good folks. When you ask Shurmur about the work that he did, the schemes that won not only games but national acclaim, that outlook is reflected in his comment: "I get a lot more credit than I actually deserve." He deflects the credit to the assistant coaches, Larry Brooks with the defensive line; Jim Lind with the linebackers; Bob Valesente with the defensive backs; and Johnny Holland.

There will be, eventually, more than enough credit to go around. Shurmur, as usual, has a workable theory about this: Offense grabs the immediate attention. Defense requires perhaps a more historical view. "It's a natural thing for people to look at the offense, the fireworks," he says. "That's fine. But as people begin to reflect, over time, they'll appreciate defense."

The thing is, it worked. There were not many Mondays, Shurmur recalls, when the coaches "had to stand up and say we didn't do it, or you (the players) didn't do it." It was more like a parade of success, all the parts meshing, the execution matching the design, improving over time, rising to each occasion.



Look at it anyway you want. See it in statistical terms, see it in athletic terms, see it in human terms. It will be difficult for anybody to match what this defense did on any of those levels.

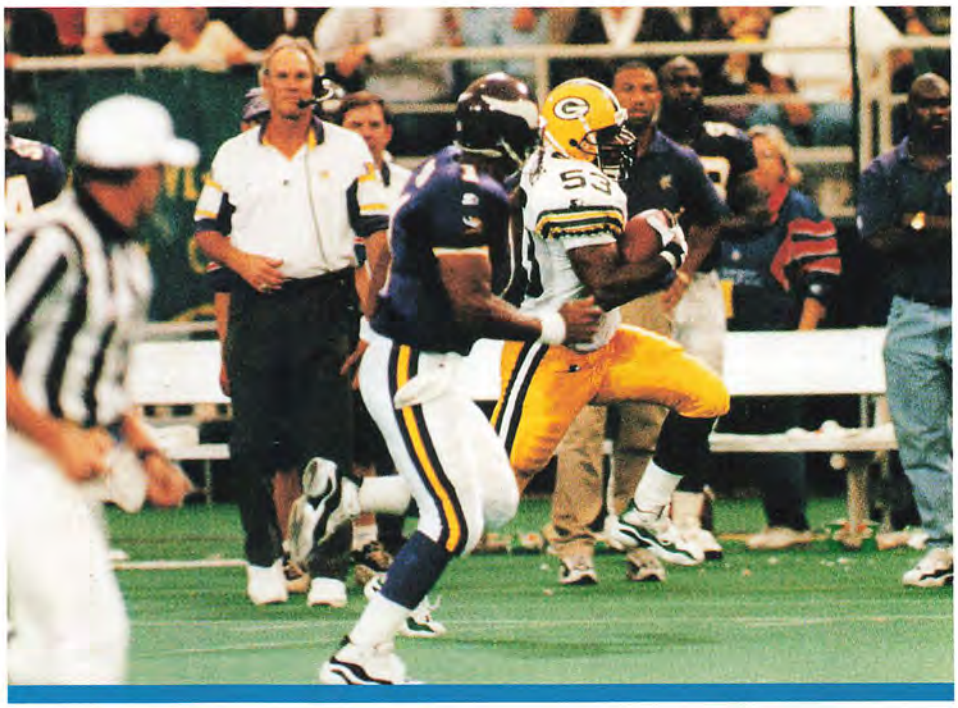
The Packers, of course, will be asked by the citizens of Wisconsin to do this all over again. Whether or not that happens, what this defense did in 1996 will stand the test of time. The numbers are there. The facts are there. The victory in Super Bowl XXXI is there.

There is no fluke here, no aberration, no run of good fortune, no mere chance. This was, by empirical measurement or intangible quality, a defense that will stand with the best of all time.

1996 Individual Defensive Statistics

	Total Tackles	Solo	Assists	Sacks/ Yards	Passes Intercept	Fum Rec	Fum Forced	Pass Def
Koonce	97	69	28	0/0	3/84	1	0	5
Butler	88	66	22	6.5/41.5	5/149	1	1	14
B. Williams	83	52	31	0.5/4.5	0/0	3	0	4
E. Robinson	82	56	26	0/0	6/107	0	0	12
Evans	78	62	16	3/25	5/102	1	1	15
Newsome	71	61	10	0/0	2/22	0	1	14
Simmons	67	47	20	2.5/3	1/0	0	2	5
Brown	52	39	13	1/4	0/0	0	1	1
White	39	30	9	8.5/50	1/46	3	3	6
S. Dotson	38	26	12	5.5/30.5	0/0	1	1	6
Jones	35	29	6	5/28.5	0/0	1	2	1
Prior	29	21	8	0/0	1/7	0	1	5
T. Williams	25	22	3	0/0	0/0	0	0	4
Wilkins	19	12	7	3/13.5	0/0	0	1	1
Holland	10	9	1	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
Cox	10	6	4	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
Harris	8	7	1	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
McKenzie	6	3	3	1/1	0/0	0	1	0
Mullen	4	4	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
Hollinquest	3	3	0	0/0	1/2	0	0	2
Dowden	2	2	0	0/0	1/5	0	0	1
Clavelle	2	1	1	0.5/2.5	0/0	0	0	0
Kuberski	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
M. Robinson	1	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
R. Brooks	0	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	1	0

Touchdowns (Interceptions): Butler, 90 yards vs San Diego; Koonce, 75 yards vs Minnesota; Evans, 32 yards vs St. Louis.
Special Teams Tackles: Harris 21 (14-7), Hollinquest 15 (13-2),T. Williams 12 (9-3), Cox 12 (8-4), Thomason 11 (10-1), Prior 9 (7-2), Jervey 9 (6-3), Evans 6 (6-0), M. Robinson 6 (5-1), Dowden 5 (4-1), McKenzie 5 (2-3), Hentrich 3 (3-0), Mullen 3 (3-0), Chmura 2 (2-0), Hayes 2 (2-0), C. Jones 2 (1-1), B. Brooks 1 (1-0), Beebe 1 (0-1), Mickens 1 (0-1).
Special Teams Forced Fumbles: Evans, Harris. **Special Teams Fumble Recoveries:** Williams. **Miscellaneous Tackles:** Beebe 2, R. Brooks 2, Bennett 1, E. Dotson 1, Favre 1, Freeman 1, Henderson 1, Mayes 1, Mickens 1, Taylor 1, Timmerman 1. **Blocked Punts:** White.



George Koonce, blessed with exceptional speed for a linebacker, is in the midst of a career-long 75-yard return of an interception for a touchdown against Minnesota.

BY LEE REMMEL
Editorial Director

WOLF SURPRISES, DRAFTS LINEMAN NO.1

Ron Wolf, a man of many strategies, declines to be predictable...

Heading into the 1997 NFL draft, most of the self-anointed experts were convinced he would be selecting a linebacker in the first round on behalf of the Packers, on the theory that it was then essential to find a replacement for Wayne Simmons at the "buck" position in Green Bay's redoubtable defense—along with the assumption of a related need for depth in the linebacker area because George Koonce's surgical knee could delay his availability until six weeks into the regular season.

Simmons, of course, already was expected to be among the missing in '97 because Wolf had indicated his substantial salary "neighborhood" would not fit under the Packers' financial cap. But he and Simmons subsequently reached an agreement and number 59 signed a new one-year contract in May.

In another personnel area, media pundits also were morally certain Wolf would not draft a placekicker—on the assumption that eight-year veteran Chris Jacke would be re-signed.

On draft day (April 19), the Packers' executive vice president/general manager proceeded to confound the alleged cognoscenti by:

—One, selecting offensive lineman Ross Verba of Iowa in the first round, marking the second year in a row he has drafted an offensive lineman with the first pick, following the selection of USC's John Michels in 1996; and

—Two, drafting placekicker Brett Conway of Penn State in the third round, thereby closing out Jacke's eight-year career as Green Bay's resident placekicker.

And, when the two-day event was over, Wolf had another surprise for a full house in the Packers' media auditorium. When a team drafts last, as the Packers did because of having captured Super Bowl honors in the 1996 season, logic suggests that pickings will be necessarily slim. Such, however, was not Wolf's post-draft appraisal.

"I don't know how many Pro Bowlers there are," he acknowledged in his overview, "but I do know that—at least through the first five—they're all solid, solid picks. And I'd be surprised if they don't make significant contributions to our team."

In addition to the versatile Verba, a 6-4, 305-pound performer who is considered capable of playing every position in the offensive line, and the strong-legged Conway (6-2 and 191), the list included:

—Safety Darren Sharper of William & Mary, 6-2 and 202 pounds, the Packers' second round selection;

—Defensive tackle Jermaine Smith of Georgia, 6-2 and 289 pounds, in the fourth round;

—Linebacker Anthony Hicks of Arkansas, 6-2 and 236 pounds, in the fifth round;

—Wide receiver Chris Miller of USC, 5-10 and 192 pounds, the Packers' first selection in the seventh round;

—Fullback Jerald Sowell of Tulane, 6-0 and 246 pounds, the team's second pick in the seventh round;

—Quarterback Ronnie McAda of Army, 6-3 and 202 pounds, the 240th and final selection in the draft.

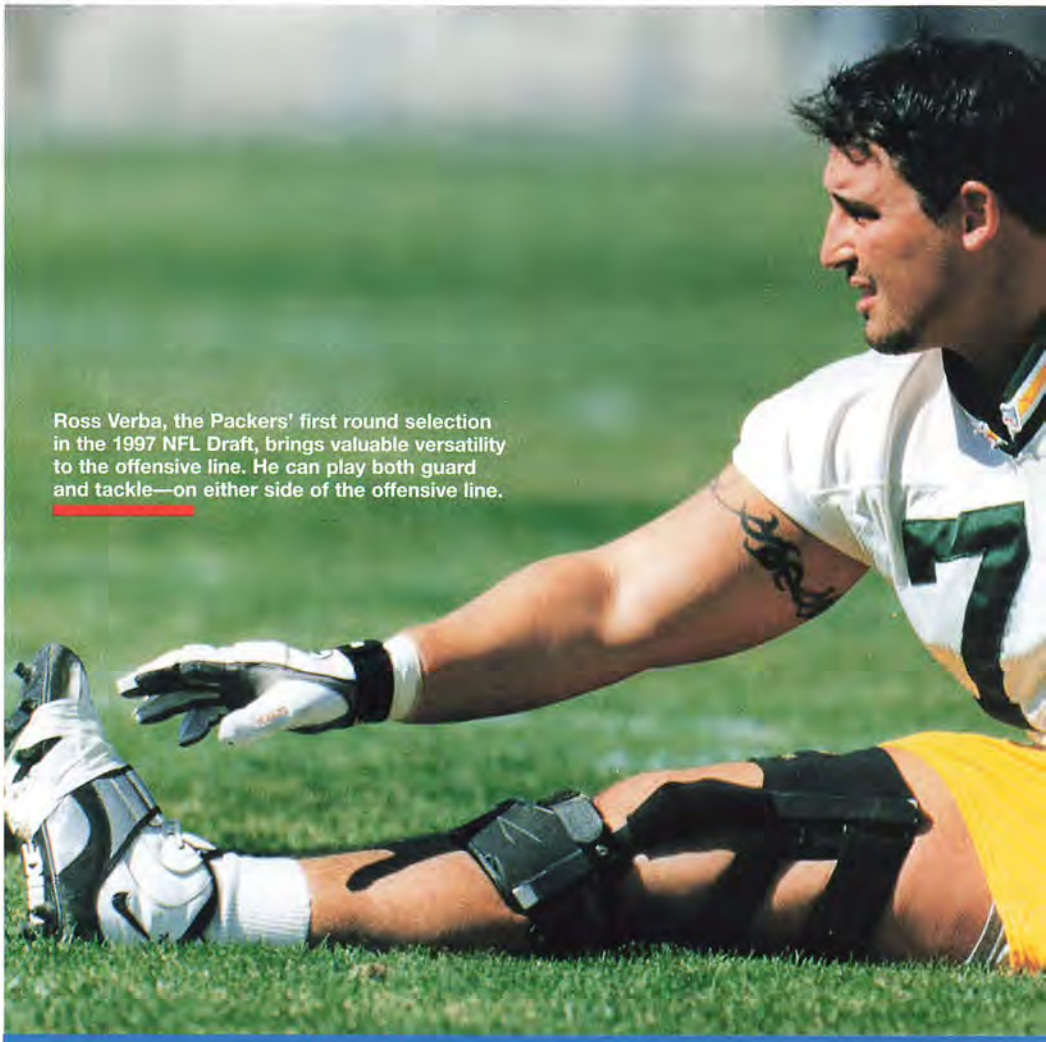
In his overall assessment, Wolf made a pertinent point about the "new" drafting philosophy, occasioned by the salary cap and the necessity to rebuild, in essence, on an annual basis.

"As we stressed when we had the meeting before we began drafting, everybody you select has to make your football team," he noted. "You have to be very careful to make sure that the people you do select have a 95 percent chance of making your team...That's what this is all about now."

Subsequently addressing the somewhat surprising selection of Verba in the first round, he said, "We think he's a very intriguing prospect from the standpoint that he appears to have enough athletic ability to play all five positions (in the offensive line).

"He can play on the left side—he's demonstrated that in college, which is vital in today's game. This is another area, the offensive line, that I've always said that when I've talked about the offensive line that it is one position that if you don't have five, you can't play. It's the only position like this in our game. You've got to have five offensive linemen.

"What Ross Verba adds to us is flexibility in our offensive line now—for the first time since we've been here."



Ross Verba, the Packers' first round selection in the 1997 NFL Draft, brings valuable versatility to the offensive line. He can play both guard and tackle—on either side of the offensive line.

THE 1997 DRAFT

With second-year pro Michels expected to step forward and take over at left tackle, Verba is expected to launch his pro career at guard.

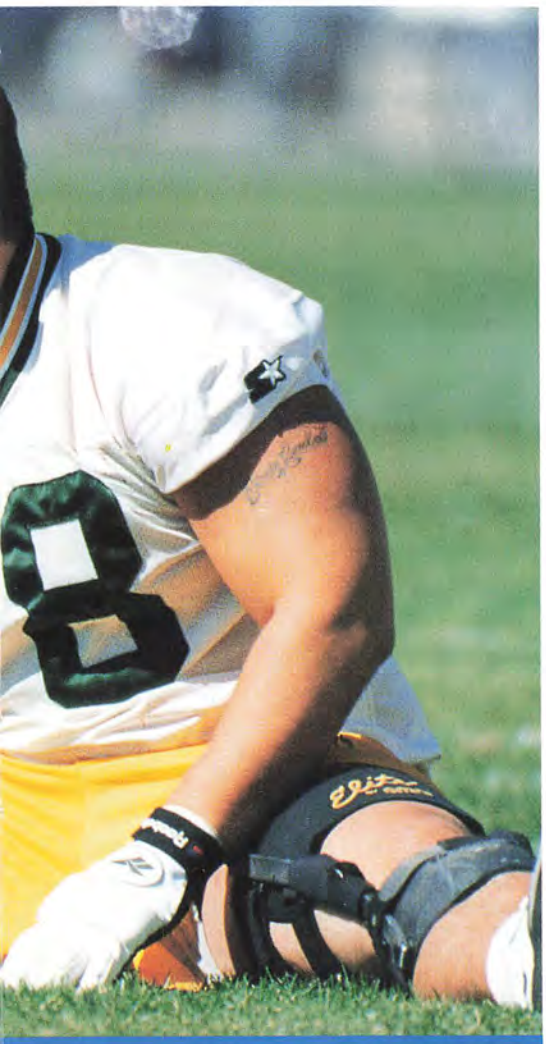
On the subject of the other major surprise of the Packers' opening draft day, the selection of Conway, Wolf prefaced his explanation by observing, "We can't discount the outstanding performance Jacke has done with Green Bay. He won a monumental game for us last year (against San Francisco) as everyone is aware, but it's really and truly time for us to move on.

"The young man we selected is an excellent kickoff man as well as field goal kicker. It was a very tough decision. We debated and talked this through long and hard...It was a very difficult situation but it's time for us to move on."

Head Coach Mike Holmgren also addressed the Conway pick and the rationale, in detail.

"We have some very, very difficult decisions to make—the two of us—with our whole football team the longer we're together," he observed. "You have to see some of those decisions where you see a player who is ascending and then leveling off...and then maybe slipping a notch. And that goes at any position.

Darren Sharper, the Packers' second round pick, brings size and impressive athletic size to Green Bay's secondary. A king-size safety at 6-1 and 202 pounds, he also has 4.59 speed in the "40" and boasts a 39-inch vertical jump.



And that's when you have to make the tough decisions.

"Statistically, I'm not sure exactly how Chris has gone. I think maybe, statistically, he has kicked better in years past. But, more than that, it was that we had an opportunity to get this young man (Conway)...this new kicker, this young kicker...with a strong leg. We feel he can kick it into the end zone. He's kicked in cold weather...he's kicked on grass...He comes from a great program. He's been in pressure games. There are a lot of positives about him, so we looked at him, more than Chris."

The Packers' veteran defensive coordinator, Fritz Shurmur, compares second round pick Sharper to Green Bay's current free safety, Eugene Robinson, a high compliment considering that Robinson enters the 1997 season as the NFL's leading active interceptor.

"No question about it," Shurmur said. "One of the things we were most impressed with with Eugene last year was we knew we'd get a real bright guy who knew what he was doing. It's nice to have a player comparable to him in terms of the capacity to do all those things we need to do in our scheme."

Sharper also has had considerable success as a larcenist, having waylaid 24 enemy passes over his collegiate career to break the William & Mary record of 20, set by Mark Kelso.

Shurmur also was pleased over the addition of Smith, who has impressive versatility and has been clocked at a creditable 4.9 seconds in the '40.

1997 Green Bay Packer Draft

Round	Name	Pos	Ht	Wt	Birthdate	College
1	Ross Verba	G/T	6-4	299	10/31/73	Iowa
2	Darren Sharper	S	6-2	206	11/3/75	William & Mary
3	Brett Conway	K	6-2	195	3/8/75	Penn State
4	Jermaine Smith	DT	6-3	289	2/3/72	Georgia
5	Anthony Hicks	LB	6-1	242	3/31/74	Arkansas
7A	Chris Miller	WR	5-10	192	7/10/73	Southern Cal
7B	Jerald Sowell	FB	6-0	248	1/21/74	Tulane
7C	Ronnie McAda	QB	6-3	205	12/6/73	Army

"By defensive lineman, we mean he (Smith) can play every down," Shurmur confided. "A lot of teams get in trouble by taking a guy who's just a pure outside pass rusher and get locked up in that phase of the game, and they can't win the physical battle somewhere down the line and it costs them."

Shurmur compared Smith's versatility to that of Gabe Wilkins, who this year is taking over for Sean Jones as the starter at right defensive end after playing both end and tackle during his first three seasons.

Although Hicks, the Packers' fifth round pick, didn't become a starter until his final season at Arkansas, Wolf was similarly impressed with the 6-foot-1, 240-pound ex- Razorback.

"We felt he stuck out in an area that we obviously concentrated on," he said. "He's really smart...fast, and big."

Hicks, who played more weak-side linebacker in college because of his speed, will begin at inside linebacker but could play any or all three linebacking spots because he appears to have the strength to play over the tight end on the strong side and the ability to cover running backs and tight ends on pass plays.

He also has the kamikaze mentality to cover on punts and kickoffs as a special teams contributor.

"It's a little unique to find a college guy who can do all that," Shurmur observed.

Wolf, who had traded the Packers' sixth round selection to Oakland for the Raiders' pick in the seventh round, was quick to acknowledge what attracted him and his colleagues to Miller, the cousin of Keyshawn Johnson, the controversial New York Jets receiver who was the No. 1 overall selection in the 1996 NFL draft.

"Speed—that's what we like about him," said the Packers' general manager, who lists the USC wideout at 4.4 in the 40. "Very explosive."

Miller, Green Bay's first selection in the seventh round (with the pick acquired from the Raiders), had replaced his cousin as the Trojans' go-to receiver in '96, snaring 43 passes for 793 yards and (an imposing 18.4-yard average) and 5 touchdowns. He also returned 19 kickoffs for a 20.4-yard average, the latter statistic likely to earn him an opportunity as a kick returner.

The massive Sowell, Green Bay's second pick in the seventh round, may have been the premier running-receiving fullback in the draft, prompting Holmgren to liken the 6-1, 246-pound Louisanan to his current starter.

"I see him as a big strong man who looks like a fullback but at Tulane was used more like a halfback," he said. "He's not a lead blocker like William Henderson, but he has that type of size. I think there's a great opportunity for one of the backs to step forward. If he's willing to become a good blocker, there's a spot for him."

Sowell closed out his collegiate career with creditable numbers—1,953 rushing yards (a 4.1-yard average) and 10 touchdowns and 1,053 yards receiving on 101 catches, a 10.1-yard average) and 4 touchdowns.

Holmgren offered a highly logical explanation for the selection of McAda on the final pick.

"First of all, you know a couple things about young men who go to the (service) academies," he said. "You know they have special qualities and special qualities that I admire—and that I think help you play football."

There were, he added, other substantial reasons.

"He's a great athlete," Holmgren said. "He brought that football team (Army) back against teams I thought were much stronger. He was a wishbone—an option quarterback. Yet, you saw his ability to throw. He didn't throw a lot of passes, obviously, in his college career. But I think he's a special young man and a special player. And, historically, since we've been here, we've taken quarterbacks in late rounds—we haven't hit on every single one of them—but most of them have had a chance to be big producers in the league or at least play....And so he's an interesting young guy...There are special circumstances any time you draft a player from a service academy (McAda faces a two-year military commitment) but we'll see...There's a lot to like about him...I'm excited about him."

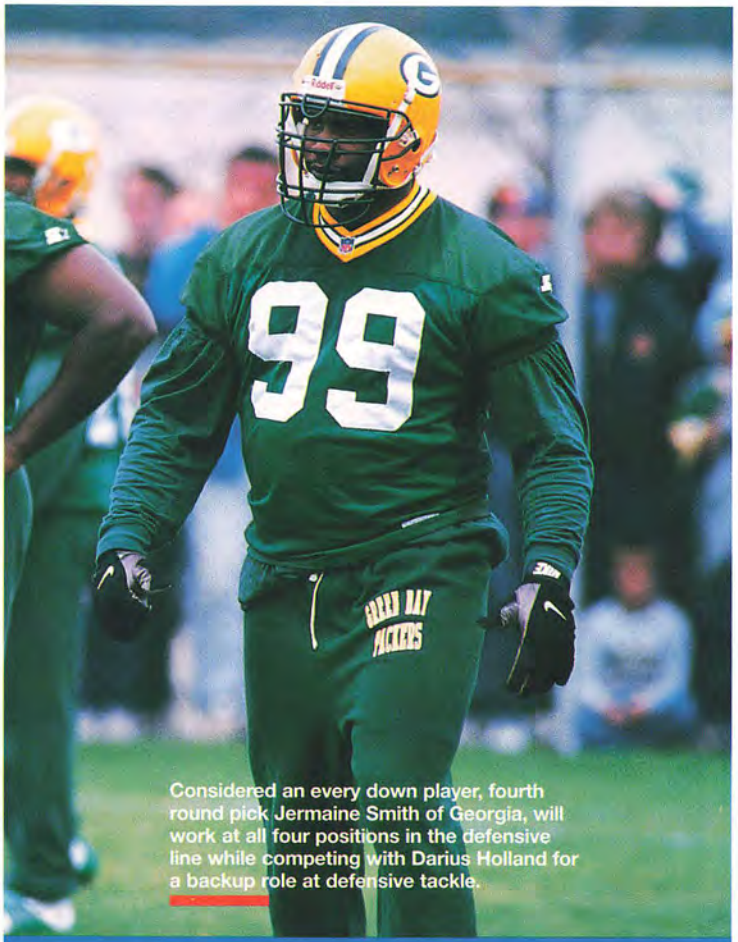
Whatever the future may hold for McAda, he became an instant national celebrity as "Mr. Irrelevant," a title which goes annually to the final pick in the draft and earned him an interesting early summer vacation—a trip to Newport Beach, Calif., in June for a week-long series of events in his honor, including a Lowsman (the opposite of Heisman) Trophy Sports Banquet, a beer can regatta, a golf tournament and a horse race.

Penn State's Brett Conway, the scheduled successor to Chris Jacke as Green Bay's resident place kicker, represents the highest draft pick (third round) the Packers have invested in a kicker since they drafted Chester Marcol in the second round in 1972.

NFL's Top Four Draft Picks For 1997

ARIZONA—Tom Knight, db, Iowa; Jake Plummer, qb, Arizona St.; Ty Howard, db, Ohio St.; Chris Dishman, g, Nebraska.
ATLANTA—Michael Booker, db, Nebraska; Nathan Davis, de, Indiana; Byron Hanspard, rb, Texas Tech; O.J. Santiago, te, Kent; Henri Crockett, lb, Florida St..
BALTIMORE—Peter Boulware, de, Florida St.; Jamie Sharper, lb, Virginia; Kim Herring db, Penn St.; Jay Graham, rb, Tennessee.
BUFFALO—Antowain Smith, rb, Houston; Marcellus Wiley, de, Columbia; Jamie Nails, t, Florida A&M; Sean Woodson, db, Jackson St.
CAROLINA—Rae Carruth, wr, Colorado; Mike Minter, db, Nebraska; Kinnon Tatum, lb, Notre Dame; Tarek Saleh, lb, Wisconsin.
CHICAGO—John Allred, te, Southern California; Bob Sapp, g, Washington; Darnell Autry, rb, Northwestern; Marcus Robinson, wr, South Carolina.
CINCINNATI—Reinard Wilson, lb, Florida St.; Corey Dillon, rb, Washington; Rod Payne, c, Michigan; Tremain Mack, db, Miami.
DALLAS—David LaFleur, te, LSU; Dexter Coakley, lb, Appalachian St.; Steve Scifres, t, Wyoming; Kenny Wheaton, db, Oregon.
DENVER—Trevor Pryce, dt, Clemson; Dan Neil, c, Texas; Corey Gilliard, db, Ball St.
DETROIT—Bryant Westbrook, db, Texas; Juan Roque, g, Arizona St.; Kevin Abrams, db, Syracuse; Matt Russell, lb, Colorado.
HOUSTON—Kenny Holmes, de, Miami; Joey Kent, wr, Tennessee; Denard Walker, db, LSU; Scott Sanderson, t, Washington St.
INDIANAPOLIS—Tarik Glenn, t, California; Adam Meadows, t, Georgia; Bert Berry, lb, Notre Dame; Delmonico Montgomery, db, Houston.
JACKSONVILLE—Renaldo Wynn, dt, Notre Dame; Mike Logan, db, West Virginia; James Hamilton, lb, North Carolina; Seth Payne, dt, Cornell.
KANSAS CITY—Tony Gonzalez, te, California; Kevin Lockett, wr, Kansas St.; Pat Barnes, qb, California; June Henley, rb, Kansas.
MIAMI—Yatil Green, wr, Miami; Sam Madison, db, Louisville; Jason Taylor, de, Akron; Derrick Rodgers, lb, Arizona St.
MINNESOTA—Dwayne Rudd, lb, Alabama; Torrian Gray, db, Virginia Tech; Stalin Colinet, de, Boston College; Antonio Banks, db, Virginia Tech.
NEW ENGLAND—Chris Canty, db, Kansas St.; Brandon Mitchell, dt, Texas A&M; Sedrick Shaw, rb, Iowa; Chris Carter, db, Texas.
NEW ORLEANS—Chris Naeole, g, Colorado; Rob Kelly, db, Ohio St.; Jared Tomich, de, Nebraska; Troy Davis, rb, Iowa St.
NEW YORK GIANTS—Ike Hilliard, wr, Florida; Tiki Barber, rb, Virginia; Ryan Phillips, lb, Idaho; Brad Maynard, p, Ball St.
NEW YORK JETS—James Farrior, lb, Virginia; Rick Terry, dt, North Carolina; Dedric Ward, wr, Northern Iowa; Terry Day, de, Mississippi St.
OAKLAND—Darrell Russell, dt, Southern Califiornia; Adam Treu, g, Nebraska; Tim Kohn, t, Iowa St.; Chad Levitt, rb, Cornell.
PHILADELPHIA—Jon Harris, de, Virginia; James Darling, lb, Washington St.; Duce Staley, rb, South Carolina; Damien Robinson, db, Iowa.
PITTSBURGH—Chad Scott, db, Maryland; Will Blackwell, wr, San Diego St.; Paul Wiggins, t, Oregon; Mike Vrabel, de, Ohio St..
ST. LOUIS—Orlando Pace, t, Ohio St.; Dexter McCleon, db, Clemson; Ryan Tucker, c, Texas Christian; Taje Allen, db, Texas.
SAN DIEGO—Freddie Jones, te, North Carolina; Michael Hamilton, lb, North Carolina A&T; Raleigh Roundtree, t, South Carolina St.; Kenny Bynum rb, South Carolina St.
SAN FRANCISCO—Jim Druckenmiller, qb, Virginia Tech; Marc Edwards, fb, Notre Dame; Greg Clark, te, Stanford.
SEATTLE—Shawn Springs, cb, Ohio St.; Walter Jones, t, Florida St.; Eric Stokes, db, Nebraska; Itula Mili, te, Brigham Young.
TAMPA BAY—Warrick Dunn, rb, Florida St.; Reidel Anthony, wr, Florida; Jerry Wunsch, t, Wisconsin; Frank Middleton, g, Arizona.
WASHINGTON—Kenard Lang, de, Miami; Greg Jones, lb, Colorado; Derek Smith, lb, Arizona St.; Albert Connell, wr, Texas A&M.

Anthony Hicks, the Packers' fifth round selection, boasts intriguing versatility. He has the physical assets to play any of the three linebacker positions and the kamikaze-like approach to be a cover man on punts and kickoffs.



Considered an every down player, fourth round pick Jermaine Smith of Georgia, will work at all four positions in the defensive line while competing with Darius Holland for a backup role at defensive tackle.

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THE NEW QB COACH

ANDY REID

BY CHUCK CARLSON
Appleton Post-Crescent

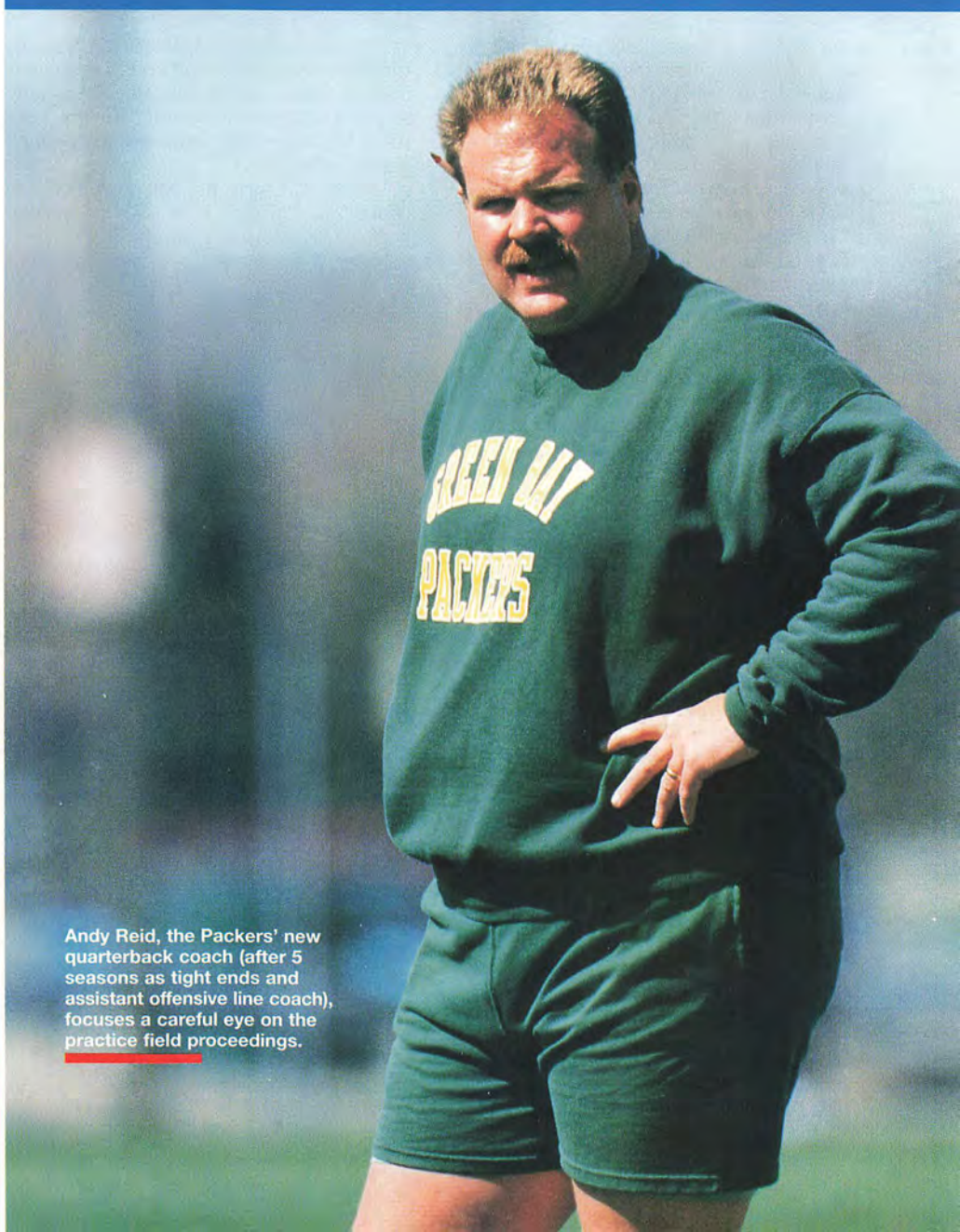
At first glance, it seems Andy Reid is as suited to the job of Green Bay Packers quarterback coach as a rhino is to water skiing.

Reid has never played quarterback. He has never coached a quarterback. His background has always tended toward linemen, first as an offensive line assistant and then tight ends coach for the Packers.

To make Andy Reid the Packers new overseer of the most important position on this team seemed a reach, considering the lineage of Packers quarterback coaches that came before.

But, as with most things, looks are deceiving.

As Reid takes over coaching the Packers quarterbacks, it's obvious his plan is not to



Andy Reid, the Packers' new quarterback coach (after 5 seasons as tight ends and assistant offensive line coach), focuses a careful eye on the practice field proceedings.

overhaul what Brett Favre and company are doing, but simply to try and not fix what isn't broken.

"Picture a golf coach," Reid said. "The professional golfers have these golf coaches. They keep their swing right in tune and that's what I'm there to do. I'm there to teach the best way I possibly can and keep them fine-tuned the best way I can."

And Reid is the first to admit that trying to alter how Favre, the NFL's two-time most valuable player, plays his game would be a lot like putting training wheels on a F-15.

"The thing you see in the great ones, normally the great ones are open to anything that will make them a little bit greater," Reid said. "That's the way I approach it with him. He knows a tremendous amount about this offense. But if I can give one little thing a day that will make him even better, well, that's my task. And he's been very receptive to that."

In fact Favre has taken to Reid well.

"Andy's all right and he's really bright," Favre said. "I've known him ever since I got here and he can show me some things. For example, he told me that the tight ends can't catch anything over their heads. I never knew that. You learn something new every day."

As for the supposed requirement that a quarterbacks coach should be a former quarterback, Favre just scoffs.

"That's a misconception," he said.

Nonetheless when coach Mike Holmgren (a former quarterbacks coach himself) came to Green Bay, one of his first tasks was to hire someone to tutor what would be the most important and critical position in the field.

He chose former Northern Michigan University star quarterback Steve Mariucci, who was instrumental in turning Favre from a gunslinger to a relatively controlled quarterback. In the intervening years, Favre and Mariucci also developed a close rapport.

Mariucci did his job so well with Favre, in fact, that two years ago he was hired away to become head coach at the University of California. A year later he's now back in the NFL as the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers.

Replacing Mariucci in the Packers scheme was Marty Mornhinweg who just happened to be a former quarterback of Holmgren's from his high school days.

Mornhinweg, too, did his job so well that after just one season, Mariucci lured him away to become his offensive coordinator in San Francisco. Holmgren wasted little time appointing Reid to take over the job.

"Very simply, coach asked me to do it and I said 'Yes, sir,'" Reid said.

What Holmgren saw in Reid was the kind of teacher that he has always sought first and foremost when it comes to coaching.

"He's a fine coach and I know I made the right decision," Holmgren said.

But that doesn't mean Reid is being left to his own devices regarding the quarterbacks and Holmgren is usually over Reid's shoulder, watching and making sure he's doing the job the way the head coach wants it done.

"He gets mad at me because I'm yelling at him all the time," Holmgren said. "Before, when he was coaching the tight ends, I just yelled at him half the time. Now that he's coaching quarterbacks, every play I'm giving it to him."

But it's a scrutiny Reid welcomes.

"I welcome it because he's the best in the business," Reid said. "The opportunity to learn from the best in the business, you don't have that chance very often. Everything he says, I take it down."

But what shouldn't get lost in this is the fact that Reid knows this complicated and diverse offense almost as well as Holmgren, Favre and offensive coordinator Sherm Lewis because he's been exposed to so many aspects of it.

"When you work the way I worked, from offensive line to tight ends and that tight end position, you've got to know so much of the offense from that position," he said.

Tight end Mark Chmura believes Reid will be an excellent quarterbacks coach.

"I gave him a hard time at first for leaving, but I also still pick his brain," Chmura said. "He knows that offense inside and out and he's just a knowledgeable guy about the whole game. He knows something about every position. If I have a problem, I'll ask him about certain things. I still use him as my coach."

As for the transition from tight ends to quarterbacks, Reid said it hasn't been that difficult for anyone involved.

"It's been very smooth," he said. "It helps having Brett and Doug Pederson, veteran players like that. We're all in this thing together and so we work it together. I'm very open that way. These guys understand what it takes and what we need to get done and we approach it that way."

And even though his two predecessors have gone onto bigger things, Reid is in no hurry to go anywhere except to another Super Bowl with the Packers.

"I don't worry about the next step," he said. "I worry about preparing my guys the best way I possibly can. I think every coach teaches a certain way and has their own style. I haven't changed that part of it. I'm not changing as a human being. I'm changing positions. I'm not changing as a teacher."

Reid talks technique with three of his charges, quarterbacks Brett Favre (right), Doug Pederson, (18), and rookie Ronnie McAda of Army.

PACKERS' ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT SURPASSES

$MILLION$

BY TOM MURPHY
Green Bay Press-Gazette

Economics is:

A. The dismal science.

B. An adult sand box.

C. $3 million each time the Packers play a game at Lambeau Field.

You're not wrong if you picked any or all. But it's "C" that rings Wisconsin cash registers.

The economic impact of the Green Bay Packers on the metropolitan community—indeed, the entire state of Wisconsin—has outgrown Jack's beanstalk.

"Three million dollars for each game at Lambeau Field is what it brings to the community," said David Rosenwasser, president of the Green Bay Area Visitor & Convention Bureau.

"And that's very conservative." That adds up to $30 million for a 10 game schedule that includes two pre-season and eight regular National Football League games.

Add two playoff games for 1996-97—as the Packers did on their way to victory in Super Bowl XXXI—and you're talking real money: $36 million-plus for the extended season.

That's not including the thousands of railbirds who arrange the family's vacation to include pre-season practice.

"If you take $25,000 as the median income in Brown County, that means the $30 million a year supports 1,200 jobs in the community," Rosenwasser said.

"That is significant. It's very, very significant, especially when I remember I'm one of the 1,200 beneficiaries of a job in the tourism and visitor industry," he said with a chortle.

Packers President Bob Harlan long has led the cheers for the franchise's impact on the economies of Green Bay, Brown County and state.

With justifiable pride, Harlan now also points to contributions to the NFL in general from the league's smallest—on a population basis—franchise.

It's Green Bay's turn to have a significant economic effect on such population centers as New York, Dallas, San Francisco and Chicago.

"Our national fan phenomena and Super Bowl victory are going to result in NFL Properties recording its highest level overall in Super Bowl merchandise sales ever," Harlan said.

"I'm told there was $70 million in Packers merchandise sold across the country in January alone.

"More than 650,000 Packers locker room Super Bowl XXXI caps have been sold at $19 each. That's the most ever for a locker room cap and that includes the Chicago Bulls, Dallas Cowboys and the Niners.

"It's the small-town mystique, the (public) ownership situation, the fact that we're here to stay, and because Green Bay takes people back to a simpler time: the 1960s when the team also was winning and television and the NFL were just getting underway.

"We've always been pretty good as far as contributing to NFL Properties. But in the last few years we've jumped from 19th to 13th to seventh and now second."

Brian McCarthy of New York, NFL Properties communications director, said policy prohibits a breakout of team logo sales.

But he said in April that sales of Super Bowl XXXI merchandise, much of it featuring the resurgent Packers, set a record $130 million in three months.

The Dallas-Pittsburgh match in Super Bowl XXX brought in $100 million.

Among the items were 950,000 Super Bowl programs and 129,000 copies of the Packers' NFL highlights were sold in two weeks.

And Team Licensing Business, a Phoenix, Ariz., company tracking such efforts, estimated NFL Properties authorized retail sales at $3 billion annually.

The NFL gets a royalty rate of 10 percent of those sales at wholesale—typically 50 percent—or $1.5 billion. That's split among the 30 teams, NFL Charities and NFL Properties.

The league gets a royalty of 10 percent at wholesale price. Wholesale is about 50 percent of retail and the take is split among teams and NFL Charities, McCarthy said.

Dallas is still first in sales tied to team logos. "But the Packers have closed the gap between No. 1 and No. 2 for fiscal 1997," McCarthy said.

It's tough to exactly quantify the Packers total impact on the state.

But assuming the NFL's $40 million salary cap—plus front office salaries—Packers employees income tax liability is about $3.3 million. About 90 percent of that is from the players, said Packers accountant Duke Copp.

The Packers also paid about $1.1 million in Wisconsin sales tax last year.

The state Department of Revenue isn't the only beneficiary.

"A couple of weeks after the Super Bowl, our inquiries were up 25 percent," said Julia Hertel, public relations manager for the Wisconsin Department of Tourism.

"We saw that increase and we're not doing anything different in our promotions compared with 1996.

"Not everyone mentioned the Packers, of course, but we think there's a correlation. It's certainly publicity you can't buy," Hertel said.

Kevin Flatley, president of the Greater Green Bay Lodging Association, said the Packers franchise "attracts a diverse group of people who use all available facilities."

There are more than 3,000 hotel rooms in the metropolitan area and would be far fewer—and far fewer jobs—without the Packers, he said.

"It isn't just when people come to games, either. It's the coaches, their families and friends, consultants and scouts.

"I've had people come from as far away as Canada just to watch the Packers practice. They come from all over and that 'season' starts in July."

The league virtually took over a local hotel for the playoff games vs. San Francisco and Carolina, he said.

Flatley, who operates the upscale, all-suite James Street Inn in nearby De Pere, said the Packers' presence is especially beneficial to his operation.

"They have given us exposure to out-of-town people that it would have taken several years longer to reach," Flatley said of his 30-unit inn.

The franchise's 1995-96 on-field successes prompted the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame—a Tiger Woods drive east of Lambeau Field—to expand.

"We drew 160,607 visitors in 1996," said William Brault, founder of one of only two such organizations devoted solely to a professional sports team.

"That's 65 percent more than in 1995 when we also had a record."

Brault, who also founded the Visitor and Convention Bureau and retired as president a couple of years ago, said increased attendance is directly correlated to the Packers on-field success.

The $1 million expansion will provide a larger lobby, better restroom facilities, expanded gift shop and storage facilities. The Hall of Fame is open to visitors during construction of the 8,000-square-foot addition.

Rosenwasser, Flatley and the local and state tourism industry aren't alone.

"January 1997 comparable store sales were up 30 percent," said Steve Kingsley, general manager of Bay Park Square, the large shopping center on South Oneida Street about one mile south of Lambeau Field.

"For all of 1996, we're up 9 percent. A lot of that has to do with the stores we added, but the success of the team is certainly a significant part of that."

Ask one of Kingsley's newer tenants, Scott Nelson, owner of Stadium Sports. He has stores in Madison (3), Janesville and Green Bay's Bay Park Square.

"We opened our East Towne (Madison) and Bay Park Square stores two weeks apart in August.

"When mall owners quote rental space, they disregard the department stores and focus on square footage at specialty shops like Stadium Sports.

"As a mall, East Towne has higher sales per square foot than Bay Park Square.

"But our numbers in Green Bay are much higher than East Towne so you have to look at it as a result of the Packers," Nelson said.

"We tend to carry the higher quality products," Nelson said.

"Authentic jerseys, Packers helmets autographed by (Brett) Favre, Wilson official game balls and lead crystal glasses you might normally not find in a department store.

"You've got to find your niche in the market. We work at that."

Success has him about to open a second location in Green Bay and bring the upscale chain to six stores.

There's a ripple effect.

The new Madison and Green Bay stores added another full- and part-time employee to the Stadium Sports payroll.

Adding a second Green Bay outlet could mean another 8 to 10 employees and make a total of 40 or so for the "relatively small" merchant.

At the mass merchandising end of the retail spectrum, ShopKo Stores Inc., the Packers "have become a significant piece of our business," said Terry McDonald, senior vice president for merchandising.

ShopKo, a 130-store retailer with shops in 15 states from Wisconsin west to Washington, has corporate headquarters just south of Lambeau Field.

"We sold 2.5 million units of licensed product in the last season," McDonald said. "And that's just in 48 of our stores in Wisconsin, Illinois and Upper Michigan.

"The single best seller was the Super Bowl locker room cap at $18.99. We sold 100,000 of those in this year's first quarter alone."

McDonald said the team's success found "ShopKo building major Packer shops within stores."

"We had a lot of Packer merchandise in all stores last winter and we feel so strong about this that we'll have permanent shops of varying size throughout the Packers' territory."

For ShopKo, the Packers are a two-way street, McDonald said.

"We spent just over $1 million in direct marketing efforts tied to the Packers."

This included the yellow hand towels given away at turnstiles and waved in unison by fans, scoreboard advertising that manages to end up in publications across the nation and player agreements for autograph sessions and advertising tie-ins.

Not all of the Green Bay Packers Inc. contributions to the community are immediately quantifiable.

In addition to what might be expected from national focus publications like *Sports Illustrated* and *The Sporting News*, business and general interest publications such as *Time* and *Newsweek* played the Packers success on both cover and inside pages.

"And network television was doing major stories," Mark Kanz of the Visitors Bureau told the *Green Bay Press-Gazette*.

"And it wasn't about the football team. It was about what a neat community we have here."

You can't afford that kind of advertising, says Duanne Swift, president of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The Packers' season has given us McDonald's (restaurants) kind of visibility for no cash outlay."

Green Bay's business and industrial promotional efforts run heavily to the Packers:

Says the text beneath an aerial view of Lambeau Field:

"Titletown USA invites you for a visit. You know us for our football team, but there is so much more we want to show you."

The Packers success breaks the ice, says Green Bay Mayor Paul Jadin.

"People are at least very curious about Green Bay. It allows us to get a foot in the door."

There's more than just dollars to the Packers impact, said Nelson of Stadium Sports.

"When we have autograph signings at our stores, we bring in a Packer and work with a non-profit organization that targets youth."

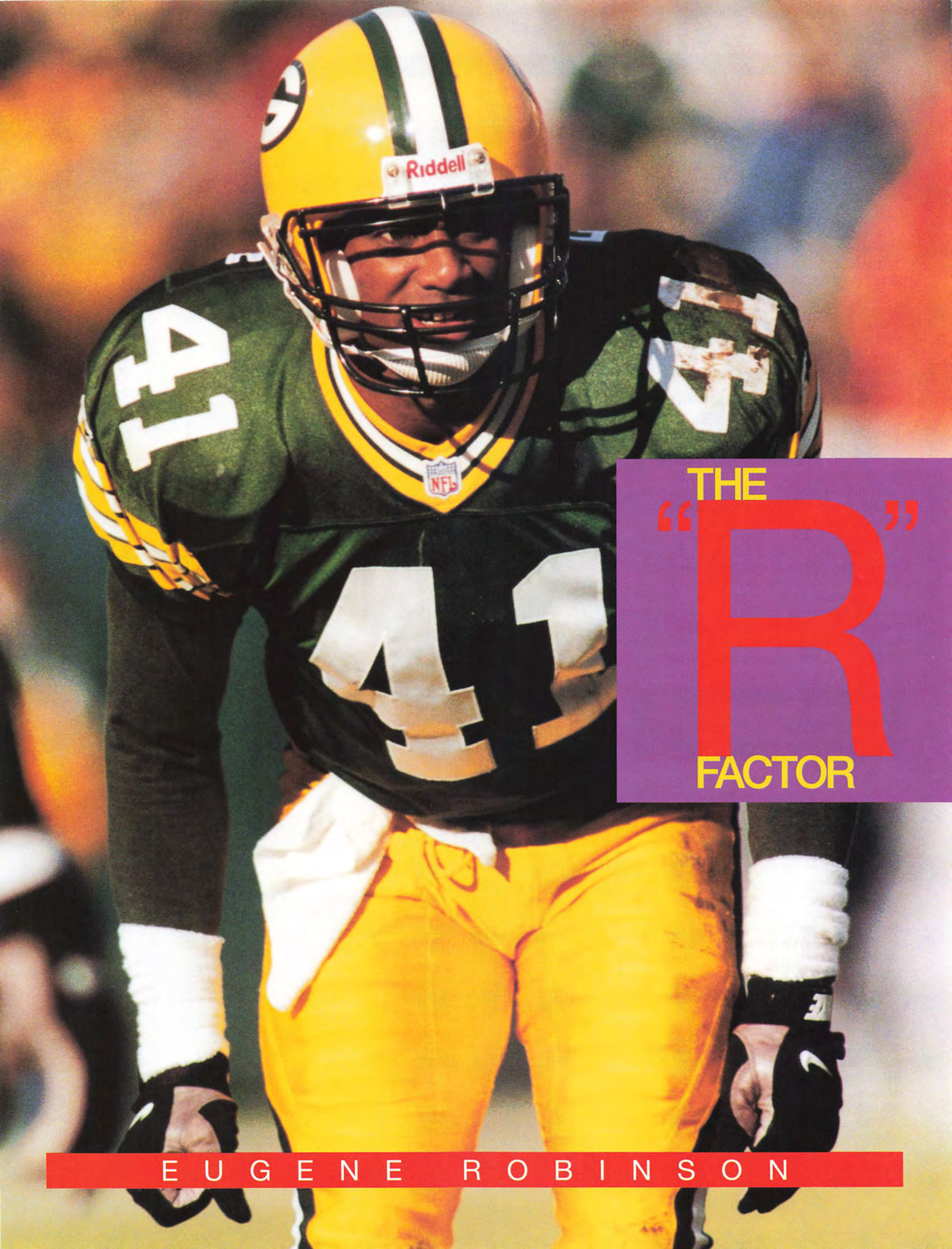
Big Brothers/Big Sisters and a youth football camp at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls are among Nelson's beneficiaries.

Stadium Sports pays for players' appearances, hoping to sell enough tickets for autographs—and merchandise—to offset the investment and its contribution to youth programs.

The Green Bay Packers' success has spilled over to the Milwaukee Mustangs, according to Chris Vallozzi, general manager of the Arena Football League team.

"The momentum the Packers build, the excitement they build with professional football in the state of Wisconsin, definitely translates to us," Vollazzi told a Milwaukee newspaper earlier this year.

The Mustangs sold 5,500 season tickets for the current season, 15 percent more than 1996. Renewals were more than 95 percent, Vallozzi said.



THE "R" FACTOR

EUGENE ROBINSON

BY TOM OATES
Wisconsin State Journal

When you enter Eugene Robinson's world, three truths become evident:

A jazz band can't perform without a sax player, a computer can't function without a programmer and a football team can't win the Super Bowl without a leader at free safety.

Of course, if you have Robinson in the house, as the Green Bay Packers did last season, you have all three bases covered. Not that the Packers had an opening in either their band or their computer department, but they did have a pressing need for a free safety, and Robinson delivered the goods.

A man whose avocations—football, computer science and jazz—are also his vocations, Robinson milked his knowledge of all three to become the catalyst for the NFL's top-ranked defense. After 11 seasons in Seattle, Robinson came to Green Bay and used his experience, exuberance and knack for big plays to turn a once-passive secondary into the terrors of the tundra.

Acquired in a June trade for the bargain-basement price of Matt LaBounty, Robinson quickly dispelled any notion that he was on the flip side of his career. Instead, he was the instrument that brought all of the Packers' defensive elements into perfect harmony. The result? A secondary that combined the physical nature of football with the efficiency of a computer to make sweet music all season.

"He is a player who we knew had great leadership skills and excellent experience."

"I've been known to make plays and be around the ball a lot," Robinson said, "They acquired me here because that's what I do. I didn't want to come to this team and be a weak link. That's why I was assertive right away. I just wanted to take charge, be vocal and make plays, just like in Seattle. I think I was the part that they needed."

In more ways than one. Robinson led the Packers in interceptions with six and was fourth on the team in tackles with 82. But measuring his contribution with statistics is like judging the quality of a song by its record sales. It doesn't tell the complete story.

"He is a player who we knew had great leadership skills and excellent experience," defensive backs coach Bob Valesente said. "What he brought with him was a youthful enthusiasm that I think was really an important factor in everybody else developing that same type of attitude. I think everybody fed off of that Eugene Robinson-type approach once he got into camp.

"He was like a young puppy out there that was ready to play all the time. He worked extra hard after practice and before practice on ball skills, footwork drills, everything that he could possibly do to keep himself a real

Robinson, the NFL's leading active interceptor, swings up field following a key theft against Seattle.

EUGENE ROBINSON

productive player. It doesn't surprise me that he had the type of season that he had. He had a Pro Bowl-type season, in my opinion. He was a very productive and complete safety for us, and we needed that type of guy."

Blessed with intelligence, leadership skills and a strong work ethic, Robinson has always been the type of guy that any team would want. He has a computer science degree from Colgate, owns a company in Seattle called InterMix Records and showed from the first day of training camp in Green Bay that he didn't need a Dale Carnegie course to win friends and influence people.

Robinson arrived with a solid reputation, having played in two Pro Bowls and owning more career interceptions (42) than any active NFL player. But he was also 33 and hadn't been 100 percent in 1995 due to the after-effects of an Achilles' tendon injury. The Seahawks put Robinson on the trading block in a cost-cutting move and found a taker in the Packers, who had tired of George Teague's inconsistency at free safety

The only question was Robinson's physical ability. Had age and injury robbed him of his speed? The Packers were pleasantly surprised with the answer to that one. Robinson was still physical against the run and could still cover enough ground to make plays in the passing game.

"Eugene is a rare player because he's a guy that's always got a goal in mind," Valesente said. "He doesn't really consider himself, and I don't consider him, to be an older player. I consider him an experienced player because he plays with a high degree of velocity, intensity and intelligence. He came in here and made plays, a lot of plays. He made a significant difference in the entire secondary. With him and (strong safety) LeRoy Butler being the same type of player, that gave us probably the two most complete safeties in the league."

In addition to his obvious physical presence, Robinson became the quarterback of the secondary, calling plays and helping others make adjustments on the fly. That freed Butler to inch closer to the line of scrimmage, where he had a career year. Robinson also had a steadying effect on young cornerbacks Doug Evans and Craig Newsome, who emerged as future stars.

Some indicators of the Robinson factor? A defense that intercepted 13 passes in 1995 picked off 26 in 1996. Fumble recoveries jumped from three to 13. The entire defense took on Robinson's physical, aggressive nature.

"He gave us a lot of flexibility," Valesente said, "but more importantly he gave us the leadership, communication skills and the opportunity to take LeRoy Butler and play him in different locations....There's no substitute for a player like that. He's a real pro, a true professional. He studies the game."

The defensive backs had 19 of the Packers' 26 interceptions, a statistic that had its genesis in the ball-catching drills Robinson instituted on the first day of training camp. All of the backs caught 50 balls before practice and 50 more afterward, every day, all through camp.

Robinson learned the routine from Dave Brown, a long-time Seattle cornerback who finished his career with the Packers in the late 1980s. Brown was a consummate professional who made a lasting impression on Robinson.

"I've done ball-catching drills forever, so coming from Seattle to here I was not going to stop catching the ball," he said. "And I was going to make sure that the guys I work with were going to catch the ball because I really believe, and Dave Brown taught me this, that if you want interceptions you've got to practice it. You've got to learn how to catch the ball."

That Robinson was able to make an immediate impact was due in large part to his immediate acceptance in the locker room. He knew Reggie White and Sean Jones before he arrived, but it was Butler who made the transition a seamless one. As the established leader of the secondary, Butler didn't take it personally when Robinson asserted his leadership. That meant all Robinson had to do was learn the defense. Like a good jazz tune, the rest just flowed.

"It was made easy because of LeRoy," Robinson said. "LeRoy released some of the control of the secondary and afforded me the opportunity to (lead). We didn't clash or anything like that. I'm really thankful for that because he instantly gave me respect and the other guys listened to what I was saying. That made it easier for me to go ahead and do what I normally do, which is to be vocal, get guys lined up and then make plays."

Robinson is 34 now, with a Super Bowl ring on his finger, but he still showed up for spring minicamps in superb condition. While he admits the trade rejuvenated him last year, he won't lack for motivation this year. Soon after Super Bowl XXXI, he was already thinking about winning another one.

In the meantime, Robinson will make no concessions to age, a notion he learned from his various hobbies. From his computer studies, he understands systems and schemes. From his music career, he understands teamwork. And from football, well, all Robinson has to do is look about 10 yards dead ahead to see a few more years of productivity for himself.

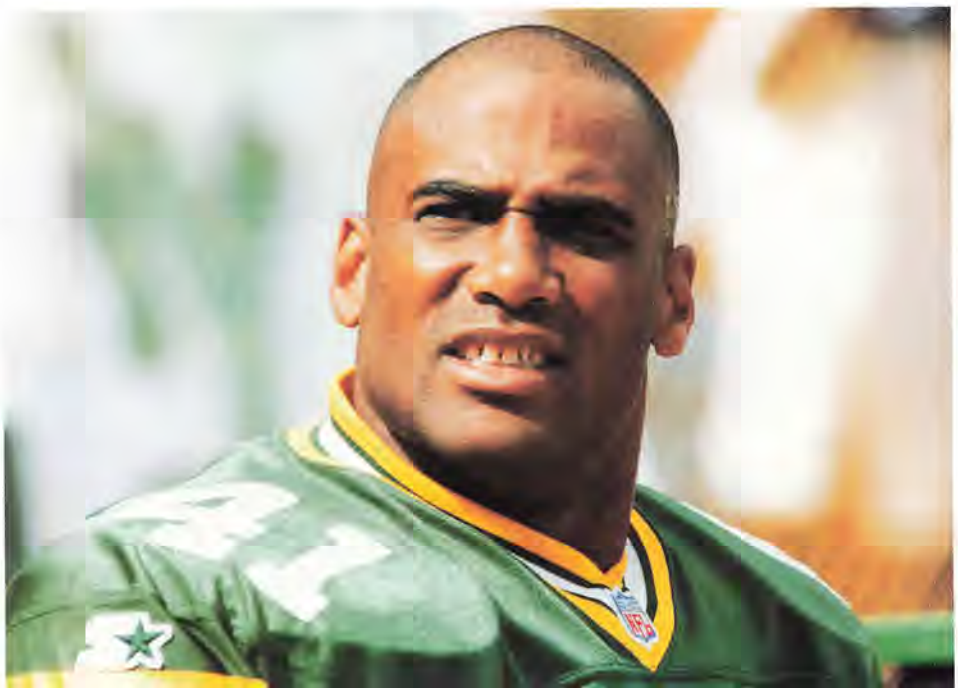
"When I got to this team and I saw the defensive line and how well they played, I said that I could play about four years behind this group because I'm not getting hit all the time," he said. "In Seattle, I had to make 100-plus tackles. Here, I can pick and choose my spots. I can just play free safety."

Which, after all, is what Eugene Robinson does best.

Defensive Backs

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Eugene Robinson*	13	6-0	195	33
LeRoy Butler*	8	6'0"	200	28
Doug Evans*	5	6'1"	190	26
Craig Newsome*	3	6'0"	190	25
Mike Prior	12	6'0"	208	33
Matthew Dorsett	3	5'11"	190	23
Roderick Mullen	3	6'1"	204	24
Tyrone Williams	2	5'11"	195	23

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Darren Sharper, 6-2, 206, William & Mary; Brad Edwards, 6-2, 204, Atlanta; Carl Greenwood, 5-11, 186, NY Jets.



RICH IN RECEIVERS

BY TOM KESSENICH
Oshkosh Northwestern

In many ways, a wide receiver rotation in football must possess the same qualities to be successful as a starting rotation in baseball.

Each must have talent, sufficient depth and the ability to toss a variety of different looks at an opponent.

The Green Bay Packers certainly have been able to offer all that and more with their receiver arsenal the past two seasons. And as the 1997 season approaches, there is a possibility this year's group may be the best the team has ever assembled in the Ron Wolf-Mike Holmgren era.

"I think we could be, because basically we have the same guys here who were here last year," said Robert Brooks, Green Bay's go-to receiver and starting flanker. "On top of that, we all can do a lot of different things. That makes us even better as a group."

Two seasons ago, the group of Brooks, Mark Ingram, Anthony Morgan, Antonio Freeman, Charles Jordan and Terry Mickens combined to catch 190 passes and 23 touchdowns and led Green Bay to the NFC Central Division title and the NFC Championship Game against the Dallas Cowboys.

Last season, despite being ravaged by injuries, the Packers' receivers were strong again. Brooks, Freeman, Mickens, Don Beebe, Andre Rison, Derrick Mayes and Desmond Howard caught 168 passes and 22 touchdowns and helped Green Bay to another division title and a victory in Super Bowl XXXI over the New England Patriots.

If there is one element which linked the receiver corps the past two seasons, it would be togetherness, both on and off the field.

"We do a lot of things together off the field," Brooks said. "We're very close. There are no egos here.

"Nobody's thinking 'I'm better than the next guy,' because we all have a role to play. We're all out there for the same thing and that's to win."

Arguably the biggest key to success for the Packers' receivers in '97 is Brooks' return to good health.

Brooks replaced Sterling Sharpe as Green Bay's flanker in 1995 and enjoyed a banner season, catching 102 passes for a club record 1,497 yards and 13 touchdowns. He emerged as one of the NFL's best receivers and even bigger things were expected in '96.

But Brooks' hopes for another superlative season evaporated when he severely injured his right knee on Green Bay's first play from scrimmage in its overtime win against San Francisco last October.

At first, the injury was believed to potentially be career-threatening. But Brooks, one of the Packers' most well-conditioned players, has attacked his rehab with the same ferocity he uses to snare passes in traffic.

Now he is poised to return.

"There are days when I feel some pain, but I don't let that get me down," he said. "I don't think about, 'Oh, there's some pain when I do something.'

"I think about all the strides I've made and the positive things I'm doing."

Getting Brooks back at a high level is crucial because it would give Green Bay one of the most potent receiving duos in the league in Brooks and Freeman. Strike that, perhaps the best in the league.

At least that's what Freeman believes.

"It's going to depend on how hard we work, but we could do some real damage out there," Freeman said.

BROOKS

FREEMAN

BEEBE

After steadily improving as a rookie in '95, Freeman made a huge splash last season. Playing split end and filling in briefly for Brooks at flanker, Freeman caught 56 passes for 933 yards and nine touchdowns.

Freeman put those numbers up despite missing four weeks with a forearm injury and being forced to play the latter portion of the season with a cast on his left arm.

With Brooks in the lineup, Freeman proved to be a worthy complement who also could strike fear in the hearts of defenses. After Brooks was injured, Freeman showed he could more than hold his own as Green Bay's go-to receiver.

"He did some amazing things as a rookie as far as catching onto the system," offensive coordinator Sherm Lewis said. "He just got better last year. The guy just makes plays."

Brooks and Freeman are the projected starters, but Green Bay's receiver corps is anything but a two-player show.

Beebe also had a strong season last year and would be a solid third receiver behind Brooks and Freeman. A modest free-agent pickup, Beebe showed he still had blazing speed at the age of 32, catching 39 passes for 699 yards and four touchdowns.

He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown against Chicago, offering more evidence of Wolf's ability to unearth talent from all avenues as a general manager.

But if the Packers' hierarchy has its way, another receiver will step to the forefront behind Brooks and Freeman in 1997.

Derrick Mayes.

"This is a very important year for him," Holmgren said. "We have good receivers on this team. If you want to play, you have to be the best."

Mayes had a difficult rookie season a year ago. A second-round pick from Notre Dame, he struggled to fully grasp Holmgren's intricate scheme and his work habits also came into question.

Perhaps the most telling example of Mayes' season came in the overtime win over the 49ers. Late in regulation, Mayes ran a soft slant route, leading to an interception and a subsequent field goal by the 49ers that put them ahead at the time.

"He probably hadn't run that route enough and didn't run it the way we would like for it to be run," Lewis said. "That's why you don't like to play first-year guys if you can help it."

Receivers

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Don Beebe	9	5'11"	183	32
Robert Brooks	6	6'0"	180	26
Antonio Freeman*	3	6'1"	190	24
Mark Chmura*	6	6'5"	250	27
Jeff Thomason	5	6'5"	250	27
Terry Mickens	4	6'0"	198	26
Derrick Mayes	2	6'0"	200	23
Bill Schroeder	2	6'2"	198	26
Eric Matthews	1	5'11"	170	25
Kyle Wachholtz	1	6'4"	235	24

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Chris Miller, 5-10, 192, USC; Quadry Ismail, 6-0, 196, Minnesota; Harper Le Bel, 6-4, 250, Atlanta; Hendrick Lusk, 6-2, 245, NY Jets; Ryan Yarborough, 6-2, 195, NY Jets.

That theory will change now as Mayes enters his second season. Now he is not only expected to play, but produce.

For his part, Mayes is well aware of the expectations he faces this season.

"I'm not a rookie anymore," he said. "It's time to play and it's time to help the team."

Brooks, Freeman, Mayes and Beebe potentially give Green Bay a deep and talented quartet of receivers to utilize. But the well is not exactly dry behind those four.

Mickens has been in the system for three seasons and showed glimpses last season of being a solid possession receiver. But perhaps the most intriguing receiver in camp this year is Ryan Yarborough.

Yarborough was in camp briefly with Green Bay last year after coming over in a trade with the New York Jets. But his stint with the Packers did not last long.

Citing personal reasons, he walked into Holmgren's office after only a few days with the team and said he was retiring.

"I wanted to spend time with my family and relax," Yarborough said. "I needed to get away from the game because I just wasn't motivated to play."

Yarborough insists the motivation has returned. His combination of size (6-foot-2) and superb hands makes him an ideal candidate for a backup role in Holmgren's offense.

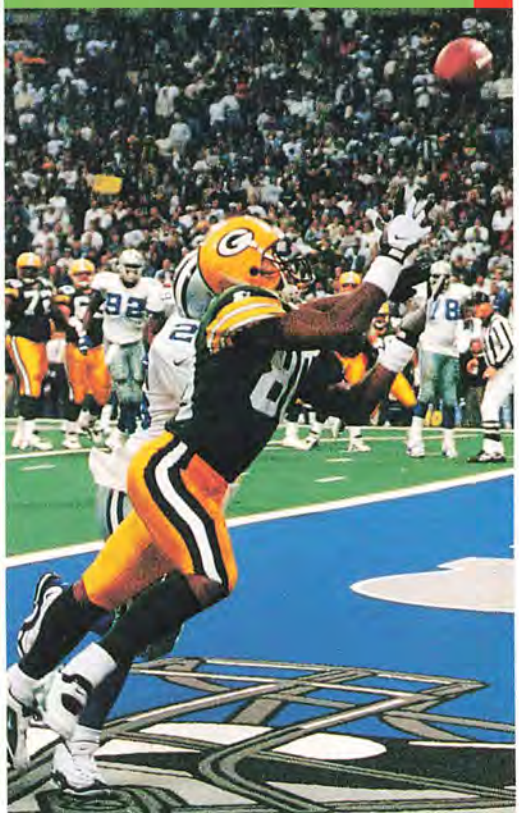
"I'm glad he's back," Holmgren said. "I liked him in his short time here. His mind's clear of some of that other stuff and he assures me he's going to give it a go."

Put it all together and it all adds up to a deep group of receivers. Considering the Packers run a pass-oriented offense, that is not only important but a necessity.

It has enabled Green Bay to achieve great heights each of the past two seasons. And if this group is even better than the previous two, greatness could be in store for the team once again in 1997.

MICKENS

MAYES



Defensive Line

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Reggie White*	13	6'5"	300	35
Gilbert Brown*	5	6'2"	325	26
Santana Dotson*	6	6'5"	285	27
Gabe Wilkins	4	6'5"	305	25
Shannon Clavelle	3	6'2"	287	24
Darius Holland	3	6'5"	310	23
Bob Kuberski	3	6'4"	295	26
Keith McKenzie	2	6'3"	242	23
Walter Scott	2	6'3"	285	23

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Jermaine Smith, 6-3, 289, Georgia.

Linebackers

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
George Koonce*	6	6'1"	243	28
Wayne Simmons*	5	6'3"	248	27
Brian Williams*	3	6'1"	235	24
Bernardo Harris	3	6'2"	243	25
Lamont Hollinquest	4	6'3"	243	26

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Anthony Hicks, 6-1, 242, Arkansas.

Offensive Line

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Frank Winters*	11	6'3"	295	33
Bruce Wilkerson*	11	6'5"	305	32
Earl Dotson*	5	6'4"	315	26
Aaron Taylor*	4	6'4"	305	24
Adam Timmerman*	3	6'4"	295	25
Lindsay Knapp	5	6'6"	300	27
Gary Brown	4	6'4"	315	25
Mike Flanagan	2	6'5"	290	23
John Michels	2	6'7"	290	24
Marco Rivera	2	6'4"	295	25
Jeff Dellenbach	12	6'6"	300	34

* Indicates starter at the end of 1996 season.
FIRST YEAR MEN: Ross Verba, 6-4, 299, Iowa.

Kickers

	Pro Exp	Ht	Wt	Age
Craig Hentrich	4	6'3"	200	25

FIRST YEAR MEN: Brett Conway, 6-2, 191, Penn State.

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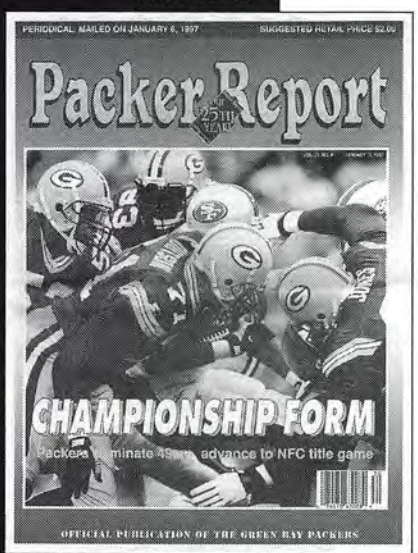
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PACKERS, FANS BID FAREWELL TO THEIR GREATEST PLAYER, DON HUTSON

The Packers and their many loyalists have bid sad and reluctant farewell this year to the greatest player in their 78-year history...the fabled Don Hutson.

Hutson, who set National Football League scoring and pass receiving records that have stood for more than a half-century, and who has been named to every all-time team chosen since his retirement following the 1945 season, died of natural causes on June 26, 1997, in Rancho Mirage, Calif., where he had made his home for many years.

Credited with originating pass patterns after joining the Packers in 1935 as a 21-year-old All-America selection from the University of Alabama, he cut a huge swath through the NFL during an 11-year career, dominating his phase of the game more completely than any other player in the game's history. He led the league in touchdowns eight times, in receptions eight times and in receiving yardage seven times while escorting the Packers to three NFL championships (1936, '39 and '44).

Chicago Bears' owner-coach George Halas, himself a pro football legend, paid the "Alabama Antelope" the ultimate compliment.

"Hutson is so extraordinary," he once said, "that I concede him two touchdowns a game and just hope we can score more."

A testimonial to Hutson's primacy at his position is the fact that his record of 99 touchdown receptions, in 117 games, stood for 44 years—until Steve Largent surpassed it in 1989—in 200 games.

Also a standout on defense in the era of the 60-minute player, he continues to rank among the Packers' all-time interception leaders with 30 "picks" as a safety, a position he did not begin playing until the fifth year of his pro career.

The first player in Green Bay's history to have his jersey number retired—his Number 14 was formally retired during a ceremony at old City Stadium in 1951— Hutson also was a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, having been inducted in 1963, the year the shrine was opened.

The Packer Family

Address: 1265 Lombardi Avenue, P. O. Box 10628, Green Bay, WI 54307-0628. Green Bay.
Telephone: (414) 496-5700. **Internet:** http://www.packers.com
Stadium: Lambeau Field. **Capacity:** 60,790. **Playing Surface:** Grass; **Team Colors:** Green, Gold and White.

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Sherman Lewis	offensive coordinator
Fritz Shurmur	defensive coordinator
Larry Brooks	defensive line
Nolan Cromwell	special teams
Gil Haskell	wide receivers
Kent Johnston	strength/conditioning
Jim Lind	linebackers
Tom Lovat	offensive line
Andy Reid	quarterbacks
Mike Sherman	tight ends
Harry Sydney	offensive backfield
Bob Valesente	defensive backfield
Johnny Holland	defensive assistant/quality control
Gary Reynolds	admin. assistant/head coach offensive assistant/quality control
Barry Rubin	strength/conditioning assistant
Sue Kluck	admin. asst./head coach
Bill Nayes	administrative assistant/football
Diane Coron	coaching secretary

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Ted Thompson	director of pro personnel
Reggie McKenzie	pro personnel assistant
John Dorsey	director of college scouting
Matt Broockmeier	pro personnel assistant
Danny Mock	scouting administrator
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Shaun Herock	college scout
Will Lewis	college scout
Scot McCloughan	college scout
Johnny Meads	college scout
Sam Seale	college scout
Jeanne Bruette	admin. assistant/general manager
Autumn Thomas-Beenenga	admin. assistant/pro personnel

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Dr. John D. Gray	associate team physician
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Sam Ramsden	assistant trainer
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Todd Edlebeck	fields supervisor
Bill Rasmussen	maintenance assistant
Dave Tilot	maintenance assistant
Patrick Helf	maintenance assistant

The All-Pros

1996 AP ALL-NFL TEAM

OFFENSE: WR–Jerry Rice, San Francisco; Herman Moore, Detroit. TE–Shannon Sharpe, Denver. T–Gary Zimmerman, Denver; Erik Williams, Dallas. G– Randall McDaniel, Minnesota; Larry Allen, Dallas. C–Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh. QB–**Brett Favre, Green Bay**. RB–Terrell Davis, Denver; Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh.
DEFENSE: E–Alfred Williams, Denver; Bruce Smith, Buffalo. T–Bryant Young, San Francisco; John Randle, Minnesota. OLB–Kevin Greene, Carolina; Chad Brown, Pittsburgh. ILB–Sam Mills, Carolina; Junior Seau, San Diego. CB–Deion Sanders, Dallas; Ashley Ambrose, Cincinnati. S–**LeRoy Butler, Green Bay**; Darren Woodson, Dallas.
SPECIALISTS: PK–Cary Blanchard, Indianapolis. P–Matt Turk, Washington; Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis (tied). KR–Michael Bates, Carolina.

1996 NFC PRO BOWL TEAM

OFFENSE: WR-Jerry Rice, San Francisco; Herman Moore. T-Erik Williams, Dallas; William Roaf, New Orleans. G-Larry Allen, Dallas; Randall McDaniel, Minnesota. C-Kevin Glover, Detroit. TE-Wesley Walls, Carolina; **Keith Jackson, Green Bay**. QB-**Brett Favre, Green Bay**. RB-Barry Sanders, Detroit; Terry Allen, Washington. FB-Larry Centers, Arizona.
DEFENSE: E-**Reggie White, Green Bay**; Tony Tolbert, Dallas. IL-John Randle, Minnesota; Bryant Young, San Francisco. OLB-Kevin Greene, Carolina; Lamar Lathon, Carolina. ILB-Sam Mills, Carolina. CB-Deion Sanders, Dallas; Aeneas Williams, Arizona. S-**LeRoy Butler, Green Bay**; Merton Hanks, San Francisco. P-Matt Turk, Washington. PK-John Kasay, Carolina. KR-Michael Bates, Carolina. Special Teamer-Jim Schwantz, Dallas.

1996 AFC PRO BOWL TEAM

OFFENSE: WR-Carl Pickens, Cincinnati; Tony Martin, San Diego. T-Gary Zimmerman, Denver; Bruce Armstrong, New England. G-Bruce Matthews, Houston; Will Shields, Kansas City. C-Dermontti Dawson, Pittsburgh. TE-Shannon Sharpe, Denver. QB-John Elway, Denver. RB-Terrell Davis, Denver; Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh. FB-Kimble Anders, Kansas City.
DEFENSE: E-Bruce Smith, Buffalo; Alfred Williams, Denver. IL-Cortez Kennedy, Seattle; Chester McGlockton, Oakland. OLB-Derrick Thomas, Kansas City; Chad Brown, Pittsburgh. ILB-Junior Seau, San Diego. CB-Dale Carter, Kansas City; Ashley Ambrose, Cincinnati. S-Carnell Lake, Pittsburgh; Steve Atwater, Denver. P-Chris Gardocki, Indianapolis. K-Cary Blanchard, Indianapolis. KR-David Meggett, New England. Special Teamer: John Henry Mills, Houston.

1996 ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

OFFENSE: WR–Terry Glenn, New England; Eddie Kennison, St. Louis. TE–Jason Dunn, Philadelphia. T-**John Michels, Green Bay**; Willie Anderson, Cincinnati. G–Jeff Hartings, Detroit; Jonathan Ogden, Baltimore. C–Michael Cheever, Jacksonville. QB–Tony Banks, St. Louis. RB–Eddie George, Houston; Karim Abdul-Jabbar, Miami.
DEFENSE: DE–Tony Brackens, Jacksonville; Simion Rice, Arizona. DT–Daryl Gardener, Miami; Marcus Jones, Tampa Bay. LB–Kevin Hardy, Jacksonville; Zach Thomas, Miami; John Mobley, Denver. CB–Donnie Abraham, Tampa Bay; Walt Harris, Chicago. S–Brian Dawkins, Philadelphia; Lawyer Milloy, New England. PK–Adam Vinatieri, New England. KR–Eddie Kennison, St. Louis.

BY PETE DOUGHERTY
Green Bay Press-Gazette

FAILURE LIT FIRE FOR

GILBERT BROWN

NOW ONE OF NFL'S PREMIER DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Failure lit the fire of Gilbert Brown's NFL career.

In 1993, Brown was a third-round draft pick of the Minnesota Vikings, but his first training camp ended in a shocking manner because they released him on the final cut of training camp.

Though the Packers picked him up on waivers and kept him on their roster the entire season, he played in only two games and learned a valuable lesson: That despite his unusual physical talents as a 350-pound plus defensive tackle, raw ability alone was not going to give him a career in the NFL.

"I just knew it wasn't going to be easy for me," Brown says. "But if something isn't hard to work for, it isn't worth having."

In the four years since then Brown has improved into one of the NFL's top defensive tackles and at age 26 a key to the top-ranked defense of the Super Bowl-champion Packers. He received the ultimate reward this offseason when he became one of the league's most coveted free agents and re-signed with the Packers, receiving a three-year deal that averages $2.75 million a season.

"He's gone all the way from a limited backup-role guy to a first-class starter in the league," says Fritz Shurmur, the Packers' defensive coordinator. "I'm sure there are lots of things he does better than anybody in the league in terms of controlling the middle of the defense from a physical standpoint and to draw attention like he does. He has two guys on him most of the time. If they're going to run in there they better do that or they won't have any room."

In signing him to that hefty contract, the Packers proved just how important they think Brown has been in their rise to Super Bowl champions, and how important he is to their hopes of remaining at the top of the league.

They had several marquee free agents going into the offseason, including Super Bowl MVP Desmond Howard, the return-man extraordinaire, and outside linebacker Wayne Simmons, a former first-round draft pick who eventually was an every-down player. Yet, in the days just before free agency opened in February, the player they put on the top of their list to re-sign was Brown.

The Jacksonville Jaguars also had targeted Brown as their top free agent and on the first day of the free-agency signing period offered him a deal that averaged a little more than $3 million a year. The Packers, knowing Brown preferred to return to Green Bay, matched the $3 million signing bonus Jacksonville offered and coupled it with base salaries that averaged out the three-year deal at $2.75 million a season, a lucrative contract to be sure, but a deal that also was worth about $750,000 less than the Jaguars' offer over the three seasons.

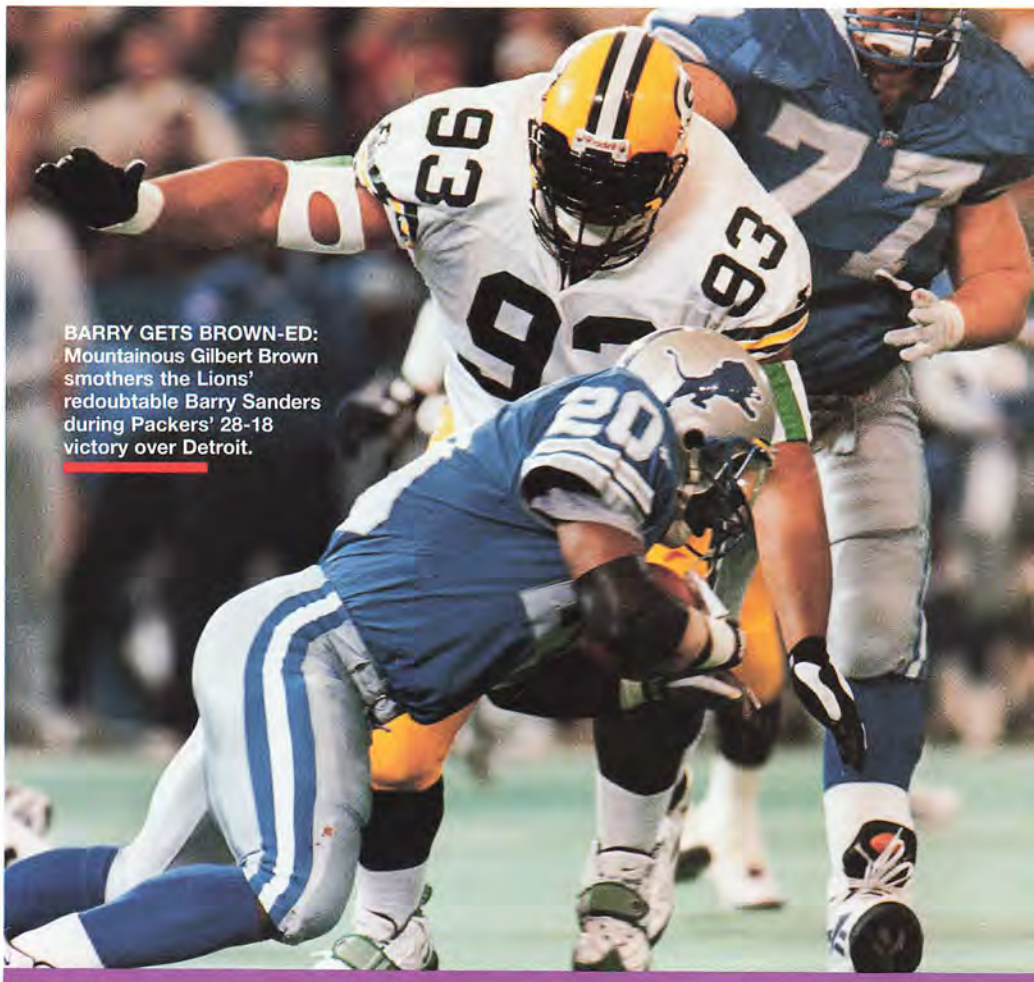
Brown, though, wanted to stay with the Packers. He liked his teammates on the Packers and the chance to win another Super Bowl or two. He also had become a fan favorite in Green Bay with his "gravedigger" pantomime after stuffing a play and his TV commercials endorsing the "double-everything" Gilbert Burger at Burger King that began late last year.

"Why leave it for a few extra dollars?" Brown said.

Brown has become such a valuable player not only because of what he's already done but what he's capable of doing. Though he's never been to a Pro Bowl, at age 26 he's on the verge of becoming one of the elite defensive tackles in the NFL.

"He's a very good player, and if he wants he has a chance to go to the next level, should he take it that far," said Ron Wolf, the Packers' general manager. "He can do that, he possesses the ability to become a dominant player in this league. He's a young man with possibly untapped ability."

Said Shurmur: "He's better than a lot of (defensive tackles) and in some situations he does things better than any of them. He's one of the top tackles in the league, and I'm not sure how many there are better than him, maybe not too many."



BARRY GETS BROWN-ED: Mountainous Gilbert Brown smothers the Lions' redoubtable Barry Sanders during Packers' 28-18 victory over Detroit.

What makes Brown such an unusual player is his startling quickness for a man his size. At 6-feet-2, Brown has played the past couple seasons at about 350 pounds, which makes him one of the biggest players in the league. And perhaps the best testament to his athletic ability comes from his days at McKenzie High School in Detroit, where he not only threw the shot put and discus, but also ran the 100 meters and a leg on the 400-meter relay.

Size and strength are not Brown's only assets, Defensive Line Coach Larry Brooks will tell you.

"I think the best thing about him is that he not only is a force in the middle," Brooks said, "but he has the athletic ability to move from sideline to sideline. He has great movement for a big man that's surprising. He gets over bodies on the ground, he's really athletic for his size."

Brown's impact on a defense doesn't show up as much in his own statistics as it does in his teammates'. Last season, his first in which he's been healthy for all 16 regular-season games, he was only eighth on the team in tackles (52) and had but one sack.

However, he was one of the keys to a Packers' defense that led the NFL in both fewest yards and points allowed last season because of his ability to stuff the run up the middle and occupy blockers on passing downs.

Describing Brown as "a real force," Shurmur says, "He, probably in terms of football strength, is the strongest player on our team. He can knock 'em back—he can knock offensive linemen back off the ball. He has the ability to really control his half of the line of scrimmage because of his massive strength and bulk."

Gilbert, expressing himself on this subject, says, "Personally, I don't think, basically, it has anything to do with 'benching' or anything. It's just basically getting out there, being physical. I think there's different kinds of strength—you have football strength and you have lifting strength.

"And sometimes, that football strength means even more than what you bench or anything, because you can keep the guys up off of you and you can throw human bodies around and do certain things to them that you can't do with weights."

The Packers' defense finished last season No. 5 in the league against the run, and much of that because Brown's massive presence made it nearly impossible for teams to run at the heart of the line of scrimmage with any kind of consistency. He has amazing quickness for a man of his size and was double-team blocked on most downs, which helped the Packers' starting linebackers finish first, third and seventh on the team in tackles. Brown's 52 tackles did lead the Packers' defensive line.

Also, though he had only the one sack, his tremendous power made him a force on bull rushes up the middle. Because he can simply overpower a single guard, teams regularly double-teamed him on passing downs as well, which helped free up the Packers' other defensive linemen. White, defensive end Sean Jones and defensive tackle Santana Dotson combined for 19 sacks, and the Packers gave up the fewest yards per pass in the NFL last season, which is testament to their regularly pressuring opposing quarterbacks.

"He's been the anchor to our defensive line," Shurmur summed up, "from the standpoint of the run and also the pass rush."

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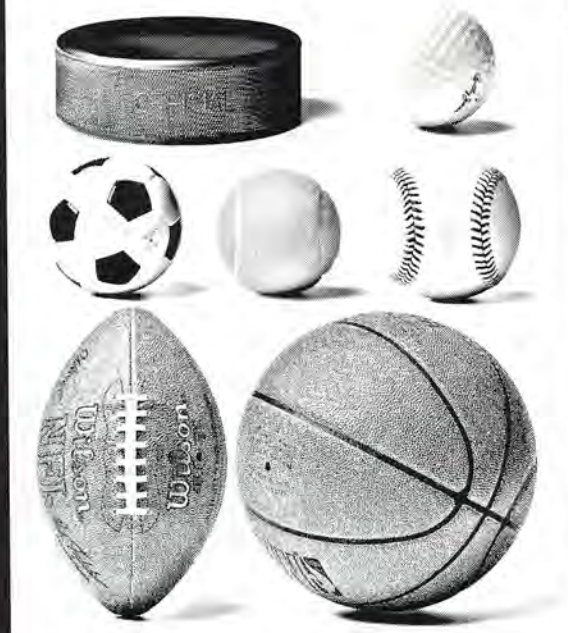

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BY ART DALEY
Editor Emeritus

"Pro Football's Hall of Fame has emerged with magnificence above and beyond all others.

"Built by fans, the million dollar mansion for gridiron immortals is set appropriately right next to a football stadium.

"Its 14-acre estate has been carved out of wooded parkland on the edge of where Jim Thorpe first brought attention to pro football...and where the National Football League was organized in 1920."

Those words were written upon the birth of the first class of entrants in the Canton, Ohio, shrine on Sept, 7, 1963.

Now, 34 years later, 189 pro football greats have been enshrined in the hallowed halls. The Packers have 19 stars in the Hall—plus five who played briefly in Green Bay.

Oddly, Green Bay and Canton have something in common: Green Bay had to fight off giant cities to make it in the NFL and Canton opposed several big cities for the Hall. The fans of both communities helped the "projects" with fund drives.

And to top it off: The idea of the Hall of Fame being built in Canton was first suggested and promoted by a sports editor, Germane Swanson of the Canton Repository. And it was a sports editor, George Calhoun of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, who helped Curly Lambeau when he wanted to start a football team.

The Hall's start parallels the Packers' early success under Vince Lombardi. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle broke ground on Aug. 11, 1962, a Packer title year, and the Hall was a reality a year later. Lombardi would enter the Hall in 1971, a year after his death, and Rozelle gained his spot in Canton in 1985, shortly before he retired.

The 35th class to be enshrined during "Football's Greatest Weekend" July 26 is special because one of the four enshrinees is a modern legend—Don Shula, retired coach of the Miami Dolphins, who ranks as the winningest coach in NFL history with 347 victories during his 33-year career,

Joining Shula are center Mike Webster, former University of Wisconsin star who played 17 seasons, 15 with the Pittsburgh Steelers; cornerback Mike Haynes, a 14-year standout with the New England Patriots and Oakland Raiders; and Wellington Mara, president of the New York Giants.

One of the most-oft asked questions regarding the Hall is merely: How does a player, founder or contributor get in the Hall of Fame?

Election of new members to the Hall is solely the responsibility of the 36-member Board of Selectors, a group largely made up of sports writers. Each NFL city has one representative, with two from New York because of its two teams. There are five at-large selectors, like *Sports Illustrated*, plus the president of the Pro Football Writers of America.

The Board meets each year on the day before the Super Bowl to elect a new class. To be elected, a nominee must obtain at least 80 per cent of the vote of those selectors in attendance. To be nominated a player must be retired five years, a coach must be retired and a contributor can be chosen while still active.

There is also the nominee of the Senior Committee, which meets each summer to name one senior candidate, who played 70 per cent of his career 25 or more years before receiving consideration from the senior committee. His name is presented at the main Board meeting and voted on. The senior nominee in 1996 wes Packer guard Jerry Kramer, who failed to get the necessary votes. Kramer likely will come up again in future years—as did former Packer Henry Jordan, who along with others made it in their second at bat.

The original Board of Selectors had only 14 members because the NFL had only 14 teams then. That Board included this writer who

19 PACKERS ENSHRINED IN

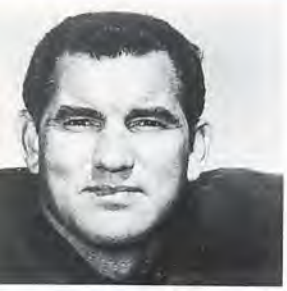
1963
Earl L. (Curly) Lambeau

1963
Robert (Cal) Hubbard

1963
Don Hutson

1963
Johnny (Blood) McNally

1964
Clarke Hinkle



1977
Forrest Gregg

1977
Bart Starr

1978
Ray Nitschke

1980
Herb Adderley

1981
Willie Davis

along with Bob Oates of Los Angeles are the only Selectors still on the Board. The membership increased when the NFL and AFL merged.

To get the Hall of Fame off to a running start the initial Board elected a class of 17, including 11 of the greatest players of all time and six contributors.

Four of these contributors represented the nucleus of the early NFL and they included Green Bay in the person of Earl L. (Curly) Lambeau who was honored with owners George Halas of the Chicago Bears, George Marshall of the Washington Redskins and Tim Mara of the New York Giants. That grouping showed how the Packers stood in the NFL.

The other two contributors were Joe Carr, first president-commissioner of the NFL, and Bert Bell, the NFL commissioner who suggested and implemented the college player draft in 1936. A great friend of the Packers, Bell has said, "There will always be a Green Bay in the National Football League."

Three Packers were among the first 11 players admitted—Don Hutson, the wonderful pass receiver and scorer, who still owns some NFL and a host of Packer records; Johnny Blood, the vagabond halfback; and Cal Hubbard, a giant in his day at 260 pounds, who anchored both sides of the Packer lines during their first triple championship reign.

The first player named was the legendary Jim Thorpe, an Indian recognized as America's greatest all-around athlete, who played for the Canton Bulldogs. The Bears had two in the first class—halfback Red Grange and fullback Bronko Nagurski. The others were Sammy Baugh, the NFL's first great passer; halfbacks Ernie Nevers and Dutch Clark; center Mel Hein and Tackle Fats Henry.

The 19 Packer Hall of Famers are divided into two championship groups—if you will. Eight are from the Lambeau era (1919-49), which produced six NFL titles, and 11 are chiefly from the Lombardi period (1959-68), a five-title run.

Besides Blood, Hutson and Hubbard, the Lambeau Famers are guard Mike Michalske, fullback Clarke Hinkle, halfback/Passer Arnie Herber and halfback Tony Canadeo.

Lombardi joins 10 of his players in the Hall of Fame—quarterback Bart Starr, fullback Jim Taylor, halfbacks Paul Hornung, defensive backs Herb Adderley and Willie Wood, linemen Willie Davis, Forrest Gregg, Jim Ringo and Henry Jordan, and linebacker Ray Nitschke.

Five others spent time with the Packers — Jan Stenerud 1980-83; Emlen Tunnell 1959-61; Walt Kiesling 1935-36; Len Ford 1958; and Ted Hendricks 1974.

Seemingly at least a half dozen or more Packers should be in Canton—an opinion of this writer, but it must be added that selectors feel the same way about their own teams. I've always felt center Charley Brock (1939-47) should have made it but he was overshadowed by the Bears' Bulldog Turner.

There are others like Bobby Dillon (1952-59), who played Pro Bowl safety with one eye and turned in 52 interceptions; maybe Dave Robinson (1963-72), a tough outside linebacker; Lavvie Dilweg (1927-34), a two-way end; Verne Lewellen (1924-32), one of football's first great punters; and, of course, the aforementioned Jerry Kramer (1958-68).

Since the Lombardi era, only one Packer looms as a possible Hall of Famer— James Lofton (1978-86), a standout pass receiver who helped Buffalo reach three Super Bowls. He'll be eligible in two years.

With the resurgence of the Packers under coach Mike Holmgren, Green Bay's future in Canton looks bright. Certainly some of today's stars will make it down the road. Let's start with Reggie White, who could be eligible around the year 2005.

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

1964
Mike Michalske

1966
Arnie Herber

1971
Vince Lombardi

1974
Tony Canadeo

1976
Jim Taylor

1981
Jim Ringo

1986
Paul Hornung

1989
Willie Wood

1995
Henry Jordan

FIVE PACKERS IN PRO BOWL

MOST SINCE '74

BY LEE REMMEL
Editorial Director

As befits the reigning Super Bowl champions, the Green Bay Packers were well represented in the 1997 Pro Bowl, staged in tropical Honolulu for the 18th consecutive year.

Led by Brett Favre, the National Football League's Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row, no fewer than five Packers saw action for the National Football Conference—the largest contingent to represent Green Bay in pro football's all-star game since 1974. Defensive end Reggie White, elected for a record eleventh time at his position, strong safety LeRoy Butler, center Frank Winters and tight end Keith Jackson joined Favre in the NFC's blue and white livery for the occasion.

(In '74, for the record, the Packers' standard bearers were cornerbacks Willie Buchanon and Ken Ellis, guard Gale Gillingham, linebacker Ted Hendricks and placekicker Chester Marcol).

In this year's postseason classic, played February 2, the American Football Conference prevailed in overtime, 26-23, but it was no fault of Favre, the NFC's starting quarterback. Author of a club record 39 touchdown passes during the regular season, he escorted the NFC to its first two scores at sun-swept Aloha Stadium, where Favre's team was seeking its sixth victory in the past nine games.

But he left the game early—after the first series of the second quarter—and the NFC was unable to hold the 9-0 lead Favre had presented his colleagues with prior to his departure. Placekicker Cary Blanchard of the Indianapolis Colts ultimately settled the issue, kicking a 37-yard field goal at 8:15 of the sudden death period to end a 23-all standoff.

Favre completed 6 of 11 passes for 143 yards and a touchdown—to Vikings guard Randall McDaniel on a trick play—during his stint. His passing had set up the game's first score, a field goal by the Carolina Panthers' John Kasay.

Both Butler and White were starters, the former playing most of the game. White batted down a pass in the first quarter and played again in the fourth quarter and the overtime.

Winters entered the game in the first quarter and played the rest of the first half. He also played again in the fourth quarter and handled long-snapping duties. Jackson played about half the game but did not catch a pass.

PACKER PRO BOWLERS: For the first time since 1974, the Packers found themselves with five representatives in the Pro Bowl last February. From left: Defensive end Reggie White, tight end, Keith Jackson, quarterback Brett Favre, strong safety LeRoy Butler and center Frank Winters.

The All-Time Top 20

SCORING

		TD	PAT	FG	TP	YRS
1	Don Hutson	105	172	7	823	11
2	Chris Jacke	0	301	173	820	8
3	Paul Hornung	62	190	66	760	9
4	Jim Taylor	91	0	0	546	9
5	Chester Marcol	1	155	120	521	9
6	Fred Cone	16	200	53	455	7
7	Sterling Sharpe	66	0	0	396	7
8	Ted Fritsch	35	62	36	380	9
9	Clarke Hinkle	43	30	28	372	10
10	Verne Lewellen	51	1	0	307	9
11	Max McGee	51	0	0	306	12
12	James Lofton	50	0	0	300	9
13	Jan Stenerud	0	115	59	292	4
14	Al Del Greco	0	112	50	262	4
15	Don Chandler	0	117	48	261	3
16	Bill Howton	43	0	0	258	7
17	Boyd Dowler	40	0	0	240	11
18	Paul Coffman	39	0	0	234	8
19	Johnny Blood	37	2	0	224	7
20	Elijah Pitts	35	0	0	210	9
	Carroll Dale	35	0	0	210	8
	Gerry Ellis	35	0	0	210	7

RUSHING

		ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	YRS
1	Jim Taylor	1,811	8,207	4.5	84	9
2	John Brockington	1,293	5,024	3.9	53	7
3	Tony Canadeo	1,025	4,197	4.1	54	11
4	Clarke Hinkle	1,171	3,860	3.3	57	10
5	**Edgar Bennett**	936	3,353	3.6	39	5
6	Gerry Ellis	836	3,826	4.6	71	7
7	Paul Hornung	893	3,711	4.2	72	9
8	Donny Anderson	787	3,165	4.0	54	6
9	Eddie Lee Ivery	667	2,933	4.4	49	8
10	Tobin Rote	419	2,205	5.3	55	7
11	Ted Fritsch	619	2,200	3.6	55	9
12	Howie Ferguson	544	2,120	3.9	57	6
13	Tom Moore	503	2,069	4.1	77	6
14	Terdell Middleton	559	2,044	3.7	76	5
15	Floyd Reid	459	1,964	4.3	69	7
16	Barty Smith	544	1,942	3.6	33	7
17	Joe Laws	470	1,932	4.1	—	12
18	MacArthur Lane	484	1,711	3.5	41	3
19	Brent Fullwood	433	1,702	3.9	38	4
20	Elijah Pitts	479	1,684	3.5	34	9

RECEIVING

		NO	YDS	AVG	LG	YRS
1	Sterling Sharpe	595	8,134	13.7	79	7
2	James Lofton	530	9,656	18.2	80	9
3	Don Hutson	488	7,991	16.4	92	11
4	Boyd Dowler	448	6,918	15.4	91	11
5	Max McGee	345	6,346	18.4	82	12
6	Paul Coffman	322	4,223	13.1	78	8
7	Billy Howton	303	5,581	18.4	90	7
8	Carroll Dale	275	5,422	19.7	89	8
9	Gerry Ellis	267	2,514	9.4	69	7
10	**Edgar Bennett**	242	1,920	7.9	40	5
11	**Robert Brooks**	215	2,795	13.0	99	5
12	Ed West	202	2,321	11.5	50	11
13	Phil Epps	192	2,884	15.0	63	7
14	Jim Taylor	187	1,505	8.1	41	9
15	Perry Kemp	182	2,341	12.9	39	4
16	Rich McGeorge	175	2,370	13.5	51	9
17	Ron Kramer	170	2,594	15.2	55	7
18	Eddie Lee Ivery	162	1,612	10.0	62	8
19	John Jefferson	149	2,253	15.1	50	4
20	Keith Woodside	144	1,248	8.7	49	4

COMBINED RUNNING BACK RUSHING & RECEIVING YARDS

		RUSHING		RECEIVING		COMBINED		
		ATT	YDS	NO	YDS	ATT	YDS	AVG
1	Jim Taylor	1,811	8,207	187	1,505	1,998	9,712	4.9
2	Gerry Ellis	836	3,826	267	2,514	1,103	6,340	5.7
3	John Brockington	1,293	5,024	138	1,075	1,431	6,099	4.3
4	**Edgar Bennett**	**936**	**3,353**	**242**	**1,920**	**1,178**	**5,273**	**4.5**
5	Paul Hornung	893	3,711	130	1,480	1,023	5,191	5.7
5	Donny Anderson	787	3,165	125	1,725	912	4,890	5.4
7	Tony Canadeo	1,025	4,197	69	579	1,094	4,776	4.4
8	Eddie Lee Ivery	667	2,933	162	1,612	829	4,545	5.5
9	Clarke Hinkle	1,171	3,860	50	537	1,221	4,397	3.6
10	Howie Ferguson	544	2,120	127	1,079	671	3,199	4.8
11	Joe Laws	470	1,932	79	1,041	549	2,973	5.4
12	Barty Smith	544	1,942	120	979	664	2,921	4.4
13	Elijah Pitts	479	1,684	97	1,182	576	2,866	4.9
14	Floyd Reid	459	1,964	72	868	531	2,832	5.3
15	Tom Moore	503	2,069	71	645	574	2,714	4.8
16	Terdell Middleton	559	2,044	78	659	637	2,703	4.2
17	MacArthur Lane	484	1,711	87	855	571	2,566	4.5
18	Jessie Clark	379	1,588	99	925	478	2,513	5.3
19	Ted Fritsch	619	2,200	25	227	644	2,427	3.8
20	Keith Woodside	259	976	144	1,248	403	2,224	5.5

Records for Clarke Hinkle and Joe Laws are incomplete; figures on pass catching in their first two seasons, 1934-35, are not available.
* Bold face indicates player is on the current active roster.

BALL CARRYING

MOST ATTEMPTS (Career)
- 1,811 Jim Taylor, 1958-66, 9 sea.
- 1,293 John Brockington, 1971-77, 7 sea.
- 1,171 Clarke Hinkle, 1932-41, 10 sea.
- 1,025 Tony Canadeo, 1941-44, 46-52, 11 sea.

MOST ATTEMPTS (One Season)
- **316 Edgar Bennett, 1995**
- 284 Terdell Middleton, 1978
- 274 John Brockington, 1972
- 272 Jim Taylor, 1962

MOST ATTEMPTS (One Game)
- 39 Terdell Middleton, 1978 vs Minnesota, 110 yards
- 32 Jim Grabowski, 1967 vs Chicago Bears, 111 yards
- John Brockington, 1974 vs Minnesota, 137 yards

MOST YARDS GAINED (Career)
- 8,207 Jim Taylor, 1958-66, 1,811 attempts, Avg. 4.5
- 5,024 John Brockington, 1971-77, 1,293 attempts, Avg. 3.9
- 4,197 Tony Canadeo, 1941-44, 46-52, 1,025 attempts, Avg. 4.1
- 3,860 Clarke Hinkle, 1932-41, 1,171 attempts, Avg. 3.3

MOST YARDS GAINED (One Season)
- 1,474 Jim Taylor, 1962, 272 attempts, Avg. 5.4
- 1,307 Jim Taylor, 1961, 243 attempts, Avg. 5.4
- 1,169 Jim Taylor, 1964, 235 attempts, Avg. 5.0
- 1,144 John Brockington, 1973, 265 attempts, Avg. 4.3

MOST YARDS GAINED (One Game)
- 186 Jim Taylor, 1961 vs NY Giants, 27 attempts, Avg. 6.9
- 167 Billy Grimes, 1950 vs NY Yanks, 10 attempts, Avg. 16.7
- 165 Jim Taylor, 1964 vs LA Rams, 17 attempts, Avg. 9.7
- 164 Jim Taylor, 1962 vs Minnesota, 17 attempts, Avg. 9.6

LONGEST RUNS

LONGEST RUNS FROM SCRIMMAGE
- 97 Andy Uram, 1939 vs Chicago Cards, TD
- 84 Jim Taylor, 1964 vs Detroit, TD
- 83 James Lofton, 1982 vs New York Giants, TD
- 80 Jessie Clark, 1985 vs St. Louis

LONGEST PUNT RETURNS
- 95 Steve Odom, 1974 vs Chicago Bears, TD
- 94 Mark Lee, 1981 vs New York Giants, TD
- 93 Veryl Switzer, 1954 vs Chicago Bears, TD
- 92 Desmond Howard 1996 vs Detroit TD
- 90 Andy Uram, 1941 vs Brooklyn, TD
- 90 Phil Epps, 1983 vs Tampa Bay, TD

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURNS
- 106 Al Carmichael, 1956 vs Chicago Bears, TD
- 104 Travis Williams, 1967 vs Los Angeles Rams, TD
- 103 Herb Adderley, 1962 vs Baltimore, TD
- 101 Dave Hampton, 1970 vs Minnesota, TD

LONGEST INTERCEPTED PASS RETURN (All TDs)
- 99 Tim Lewis, 1984 vs Los Angeles Rams, TD
- 94 Rebel Steiner, 1950 vs Chicago Bears, TD
- 91 Hal Van Every, 1941 vs Pittsburgh, TD
- **90 LeRoy Butler, 1996 vs San Diego, TD**
- 88 Bob Summerhays, 1951 vs Philadelphia, TD

LONGEST RETURN WITH FUMBLE
- 76 Scott Stephen, 1989 vs Chicago
- 70 Mike Butler, 1979 vs Minnesota, TD
- 68 George Cumby, 1981 vs Tampa Bay

PASSING

MOST PASSES ATTEMPTED (Career)
- 3,149 Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
- 2,831 Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 79-85, 9 sea.
- **2,688 Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.**
- 1,854 Tobin Rote, 1950-56, 7 sea.
- 1,607 Don Majkowski, 1987-92, 6 sea.

MOST PASSES ATTEMPTED (One Season)
- 599 Don Majkowski, 1989
- **582 Brett Favre, 1994**
- **570 Brett Favre, 1995**
- **543 Brett Favre, 1996**
- **522 Brett Favre, 1993**
- 492 Randy Wright, 1986
- 484 Lynn Dickey, 1983

MOST PASSES ATTEMPTED (One Game)
- **61 Brett Favre, 1996 vs San Francisco**
- 59 Don Majkowski, 1989 vs Detroit
- **54 Brett Favre, 1993 vs Chicago**
- 54 Randy Wright, 1986 vs San Francisco
- 53 Don Majkowski, 1989 vs Tampa Bay

MOST PASSES COMPLETED (Career)
- 1,808 Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
- **1,667 Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.**
- 1,592 Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 79-85, 9 sea.
- 889 Don Majkowski, 1987-92, 6 sea.
- 826 Tobin Rote, 1950-56, 7 sea.

MOST PASSES COMPLETED (One Season)
363 Brett Favre, 1994, 582 attempts
359 Brett Favre, 1995, 570 attempts
353 Don Majkowski, 1989, 599 attempts
325 Brett Favre, 1996, 543 attempts
318 Brett Favre, 1993, 522 attempts

MOST PASSES COMPLETED (One Game)
36 Brett Favre, 1993 vs Chicago, 54 attempts
35 Lynn Dickey, 1980 vs Tampa Bay, 51 attempts
34 Don Majkowski, 1989 vs Detroit, 59 attempts
33 Brett Favre, 1992 vs Atlanta, 43 attempts
31 Brett Favre, 1994 vs Miami, 51 attempts
31 Brett Favre, 1995 vs Cincinnati, 43 attempts

MOST PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED (Career)
151 Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 79-85, 9 sea.
138 Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
119 Tobin Rote, 1950-56, 7 sea.
90 Arnie Herber, 1932-40, 9 sea.
77 Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.
61 Babe Parelli, 1952-53, 57-58, 4 sea.

MOST PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED (One Season)
29 Lynn Dickey, 1983, 484 attempts
25 Lynn Dickey, 1980, 478 attempts
24 Brett Favre, 1993, 522 attempts
24 Tobin Rote, 1950, 224 attempts

MOST PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED (One Game)
6 Tom O'Malley, 1950 vs Detroit, 15 attempts
5 Cecil Isbell, 1938 vs New York Giants, 19 attempts
Jack Jacobs,1947 vs New York Giants, 24 attempts
Tobin Rote, 1955 vs. Los Angeles Rams, 40 attempts
Bart Starr, 1967 vs Chicago Bears, 19 attempts
Randy Wright, 1986 vs New Orleans, 44 attempts

MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING (Career)
24,718 Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
21,369 Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 79-85, 9 sea.
18,724 Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.
11,535 Tobin Rote, 1950-56, 7 sea.
10,870 Don Majkowski, 1987-92, 6 sea.

MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING (One Season)
4,458 Lynn Dickey, 1983, 289 comp.
4,413 Brett Favre, 1995, 359 comp.
4,318 Don Majkowski, 1989, 353 comp.
3,899 Brett Favre, 1996, 325 comp.
3,882 Brett Favre, 1994, 363 comp.
3,529 Lynn Dickey, 1980, 278 comp.
3,303 Brett Favre, 1993, 318 comp.
3,247 Randy Wright, 1986, 263 comp.

MOST YARDS GAINED PASSING (One Game)
418 Lynn Dickey, 1980 vs Tampa Bay, 35 comp.
410 Don Horn, 1969 vs St. Louis, 22 comp.
402 Brett Favre, 1993 vs Chicago, 36 comp
387 Lynn Dickey, 1983 vs Washington, 22 comp.
384 Lynn Dickey, 1984 vs San Diego, 39 comp.

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES (Career)
152 Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
147 Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.
133 Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 1979-85, 9 sea.
89 Tobin Rote, 1950-56, 7 sea.
64 Arnie Herber, 1930-41, 12 sea.

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES (One Season)
39 Brett Favre, 1996
38 Brett Favre, 1995
33 Brett Favre, 1994
32 Lynn Dickey, 1983
27 Don Majkowski, 1989
25 Lynn Dickey, 1984

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES (One Game)
5 Cecil Isbell, 1942 vs Chicago Cardinals
5 Don Horn, 1969 vs St. Louis
5 Lynn Dickey, 1981 vs New Orleans
5 Lynn Dickey, 1983 vs Houston
5 Brett Favre, 1995 vs Chicago

BEST PASSING EFFICIENCY (Career)
62.0% Brett Favre, 1992-96, 5 sea.
57.4% Bart Starr, 1956-71, 16 sea.
56.2% Lynn Dickey, 1976-77, 1979-85, 9 sea.
55.3% Don Majkowski, 1987-92, 6 sea.
53.8% Randy Wright, 1984-88, 5 sea.

BEST PASSING EFFICIENCY (Season)
64.1% Brett Favre, 1992, 471 attempts, 302 comp.
63.7% Bart Starr, 1968, 171 attempts, 109 comp.
63.0% Brett Favre, 1995, 570 attempts, 359 comp.
62.5% Bart Starr, 1962, 285 attempts, 178 comp.
62.4% Brett Favre, 1994, 582 attempts, 363 comp.
62.2% Bart Starr, 1969, 148 attempts, 92 comp.

LONGEST COMPLETED PASS
99 Brett Favre to Robert Brooks, 1995 vs Chicago
96 Tobin Rote to Billy Grimes, 1950 vs San Francisco
95 Lynn Dickey to Steve Odom, 1977 vs Minnesota
92 Arnie Herber to Don Hutson, 1939 vs Chicago Cardinals
91 Bart Starr to Boyd Dowler, 1960 vs Los Angeles Rams

SHORTEST COMPLETED PASS
4 (Inches) Cecil Isbell to Don Hutson, 1942 vs Cleveland Rams

PASS RECEIVING

MOST PASSES CAUGHT (Career)
595 Sterling Sharpe, 1988-94, 7 sea.
530 James Lofton, 1978-86, 9 sea.
488 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 sea.
448 Boyd Dowler, 1959-69, 11 sea.
345 Max McGee, 1954, 57-67, 12 sea.

MOST PASSES CAUGHT (One Season)
112 Sterling Sharpe, 1993
108 Sterling Sharpe, 1992
102 Robert Brooks, 1995
94 Sterling Sharpe, 1994
90 Sterling Sharpe, 1989
78 Edgar Bennett, 1994
74 Don Hutson, 1942
71 James Lofton (2 times), 1980, 1981

MOST PASSES CAUGHT (One Game)
14 Don Hutson, 1942 vs New York Giants, 134 yards
13 Don Hutson, 1942 vs Cleveland Rams, 209 yards
12 Ken Payne, 1975 vs Denver, 167 yards
Vince Workman, 1992 vs Minnesota, 50 yards
11 Don Hutson, 1942 vs Card-Pitt, 207 yards
Bob Mann, 1951 vs Los Angeles Rams, 123 yards
Bill Howton, 1954 vs Baltimore, 147 yards
Eddie Lee Ivery, 1980 vs Tampa Bay, 128 yards
Gerry Ellis,1981 vs Tampa Bay, 76 yards
James Lofton, 1984 vs Denver, 206 yards
Sterling Sharpe, 1992 vs NY Giants, 160 yards
Robert Brooks, 1995 vs Pittsburgh, 137 yards

MOST YARDS CATCHING PASSES (Career)
9,656 James Lofton, 1978-86, 9 seasons
8,134 Sterling Sharpe, 1988-94, 7 seasons
7,991 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 seasons
6,918 Boyd Dowler, 1959-69, 11 seasons
6,346 Max McGee, 1954, 1957-67, 12 seasons

MOST YARDS CATCHING PASSES (One Season)
1,497 Robert Brooks, 1995
1,461 Sterling Sharpe, 1992
1,423 Sterling Sharpe, 1989
1,361 James Lofton, 1984

MOST YARDS CATCHING PASSES (One Game)
257 Bill Howton, 1956 vs Los Angeles Rams (7 catches)
237 Don Hutson, 1943 vs Brooklyn (8 catches)
220 Don Beebe, 1996 vs San Francisco (11 catches)
209 Don Hutson, 1942 vs Cleveland Rams (13 catches)
207 Don Hutson, 1942 vs Chicago Cardinals (5 catches)
207 Don Hutson, 1944 vs Card-Pitt (11 catches)

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES CAUGHT (Career)
99 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 seasons
65 Sterling Sharpe, 1988-94, 7 seasons
50 Max McGee, 1954, 1957-67, 12 seasons
49 James Lofton, 1978-86, 9 seasons
43 Bill Howton, 1952-58, 7 seasons

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES CAUGHT (One Season)
18 Sterling Sharpe, 1994
17 Don Hutson, 1942
13 Robert Brooks, 1995
13 Bill Howton, 1952
13 Sterling Sharpe, 1992
12 Sterling Sharpe, 1989
12 Bill Howton, 1956

MOST TOUCHDOWN PASSES CAUGHT (One Game)
4 Don Hutson, 1945 vs Detroit
4 Sterling Sharpe, 1993 vs Tampa Bay; 1994 vs Dallas
3 Don Hutson, (6 times)
Johnny Blood, 1931 vs Providence
Andy Uram, 1942 vs Chicago Cardinals
Bob Mann, 1951 vs Philadelphia
Bill Howton, 1952 vs Detroit
Max McGee, 1954 vs Philadelphia; 1963 vs LA Rams
James Lofton, 1978 vs New Orleans
James Lofton, 1983 vs Pittsburgh
Sterling Sharpe, 1994 vs Tampa Bay

SCORING

MOST POINTS SCORED (Career)
823 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 sea. (105 TD, 172 PAT, 7 FG)
820 Chris Jacke, 1989-96, 8 sea. (301 PAT, 173 FG)
760 Paul Hornung, 1957-62, 64-66, 9 sea. (62 TD, 190 PAT, 66 FG)
546 Jim Taylor, 1958-66, 9 sea. (91 TD)
521 Chester Marcol, 1972-80, 9 sea. (155 Pat, 120 FG, 1TD)

MOST POINTS SCORED (One Season)
176 Paul Hornung, 1960 (15 TD, 41 PAT, 15 FG)
146 Paul Hornung, 1961 (10 TD, 41 PAT, 15 FG)
138 Don Hutson, 1942 (17 TD, 33 PAT, 1 FG)
128 Chester Marcol, 1972 (29 PAT, 33 FG)
128 Chris Jacke, 1993 (35 PAT, 31 FG)

MOST POINTS SCORED (One Game)
33 Paul Hornung, 1961 vs Baltimore (4 TD, 6 PAT, 1 FG)
31 Don Hutson, 1945 vs Detroit (4 TD, 7 PAT)
30 Paul Hornung, 1965 vs Baltimore (5 TD)
28 Paul Hornung, 1962 vs Minnesota (3 TD, 4 PAT, 2 FG)

MOST TOUCHDOWNS (Career)
105 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 sea.
91 Jim Taylor, 1958-65, 8 sea.
66 Sterling Sharpe, 1988-94, 7 sea.
62 Paul Hornung, 1957-62, 64-66, 9 sea.
51 Vern Lewellen, 1924-32, 9 sea
51 Max McGee, 1954, 1957-67, 12 sea.

MOST TOUCHDOWNS (One Season)
19 Jim Taylor, 1962
18 Sterling Sharpe, 1994
17 Don Hutson, 1942
16 Jim Taylor, 1961
15 Paul Hornung, 1960
Jim Taylor, 1964

MOST TOUCHDOWNS (One Game)
5 Paul Hornung, 1965 vs Baltimore
4 Don Hutson, 1945 vs Detroit
Paul Hornung,1961 vs Baltimore
Jim Taylor (3 times), 1961 vs Cleveland; 1962 vs Chicago Bears; 1962 vs Philadelphia
Donny Anderson, 1967 vs Cleveland
Terdell Middleton, 1978 vs Seattle
Sterling Sharpe, 1993 vs Tampa Bay; 1994 Dallas

MOST FIELD GOALS (Career)
173 Chris Jacke, 1989-96, 8 sea.
120 Chester Marcol, 1972-80, 9 sea.
66 Paul Hornung, 1957-62, 64-66, 9 sea.
59 Jan Stenerud, 1980-83, 4 sea.

MOST FIELD GOALS (One Season)
33 Chester Marcol, 1972, 48 attempts
31 Chris Jacke, 1993, 37 attempts
25 Chester Marcol, 1974, 39 attempts
23 Chris Jacke, 1990, 30 attempts

MOST FIELD GOALS (One Game)
5 Chris Jacke, (2 times) 1990 vs Los Angeles Raiders; 1996 vs San Francisco
4 Chris Jacke, (5 times) 1989 vs Chicago; 1992 vs Tampa Bay, 1993 vs New Orleans and Detroit; 1994 vs Chicago
Chester Marcol (5 times), 1972 vs Cleveland and Detroit; 1973 vs St. Louis; 1974 vs Detroit and Minnesota
Jan Stenerud (3 times),1981 vs New York Giants; 1982 vs Buffalo; 1983 vs Tampa Bay
Paul Hornung (2 times), 1961 vs Minnesota; 1960 vs Pittsburgh
Al Del Greco (2 times), 1985 vs Detroit; 1986 vs Chicago

Jerry Kramer, 1963 vs Pittsburgh
Tom Birney, 1979 vs Detroit
Max Zendejas, 1988 vs Minnesota

LONGEST FIELD GOAL
54 yards Chris Jacke, 1993 vs Detroit
53 yards Jan Stenerud, 1981 vs Tampa Bay
Chris Jacke, 1990 vs LA Rams
Chris Jacke, 1991 vs NY jets
Chris Jacke, 1992 vs Detroit
Chris Jacke, 1996 vs San Francisco

MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN (Career)
301 Chris Jacke, 1989-96, 8 sea.
200 Fred Cone, 1951-57, 7 sea.
190 Paul Hornung, 1957-62, 64-66, 9 sea.
172 Don Hutson, 1935-45, 11 sea.

MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN (One Season)
52 Jan Stenerud, 1983
51 Chris Jacke, 1996
43 Jerry Kramer, 1963
43 Chris Jacke, 1995

MOST POINTS AFTER TOUCHDOWN (One Game)
8 Don Chandler, 1966 vs Atlanta
7 Paul Hornung (2 times), 1961 vs Cleveland; 1962 vs Chicago
Don Hutson, 1945 vs Detroit
Jerry Kramer, 1962 vs Philadelphia
Don Chandler, 1967 vs Cleveland
Jan Stenerud, 1983 vs Tampa Bay

PUNTING

MOST PUNTS (Career)
495 Dave Beverly, 1975-80, 6 sea.
368 Don Bracken, 1985-90, 6 sea.
315 Donny Anderson, 1966-71, 6 sea.

MOST PUNTS (One Season)
106 Dave Beverly, 1978
86 Dave Beverly, 1980
86 Paul McJulien, 1991

MOST PUNTS (One Game)
11 Clarke Hinkle, 1933 vs Chicago Bears, Avg. 37
11 Jug Girard, 1950 vs Los Angeles Rams, Avg. 36.5
11 Jug Girard, 1950 vs Chicago Bears, Avg. 38
10 Jack Jacobs, 1948 vs Chicago Bears, Avg. 39.2
Roy McKay, 1946 vs Philadelphia, Avg 42.1
Max McGee, 1959 vs New York Giants, Avg. 44.1
Don Chandler, 1965 vs Dallas, Avg. 42.4
Dave Beverly, 1976 vs Cincinnati, Avg. 36.6
David Beverly, 1978 vs Minnesota, Avg. 30.5
David Beverly, 1978 vs Chicago, Avg. 30.7
Don Bracken, 1987 vs L.A. Raiders, Avg. 48.9
Craig Hentrich, 1994 vs Minnesota, Avg. 46.0

BEST PUNTING AVERAGE (One Season)
44.7 Jerry Norton, 1963, 51 punts
44.5 Clarke Hinkle, 1941, 22 punts
44.1 Boyd Dowler, 1961, 38 punts

LONGEST PUNT
90 yards Don Chandler, 1965
78 yards Jack Jacobs, 1948
75 yards Boyd Dowler (2 times), 1961, 1962

PASS INTERCEPTIONS

MOST PASSES INTERCEPTED (Career)
52 Bobby Dillon, 1952-59, 8 sea.
48 Willie Wood, 1960-71, 12 sea.
39 Herb Adderley, 1961-69, 9 sea.
33 Irv Comp, 1943-49, 7 sea.

MOST PASSES INTERCEPTED (One Season)
10 Irv Comp, 1943
9 Bobby Dillon (3 times), 1953, 1955, 1957
John Symank, 1957
Willie Wood, 1962
Willie Buchanon, 1978
Tom Flynn, 1984
Mark Lee, 1986

MOST INTERCEPTIONS (One Game)
4 Bobby Dillon, vs Detroit, 1953
4 Willie Buchanon, vs San Diego, 1978

MOST TOUCHDOWNS (One Season)
3 Herb Adderley, 1965

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THE RAPID RISE OF BRIAN WILLIAMS

BY CHARLES F. GARDNER
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Brian Williams remembers that helpless feeling.

After being chosen in the third round of the 1995 NFL draft, the linebacker immediately wanted to prove his worth to his new employer, the Green Bay Packers. But a painful groin injury limited his playing time and quickly raised questions about his potential.

One year later, he answered the doubters, moving into the starting right outside linebacker spot and playing a major role in the Packers' drive to a Super Bowl championship.

"I heard all the little negatives, but I knew what Brian Williams could do," said the University of Southern California graduate. "I thought, 'Wait until they get a load of me once I'm healthy.'

"I think I did surprise them because the year before they never got to see what I could do. The defenses were confusing and I was tired out there on the field. My head was on a swivel."

As frustrated as Williams was his rookie season, he entered the Packers' 1996 training camp with a positive approach. His pre-season play caused the Green Bay coaching staff to move George Koonce to middle linebacker and put Williams at the "plugger" position,

"Finally I just listened to what people said and did a lot of stretching and rehab for the injury," Williams said. "It finally went away. I just made sure I was learning details in minicamps so when we put on pads and the bullets were live, I could make plays."

Williams credits Packers assistant Johnny Holland, a former Green Bay linebacker, with tutoring him and boosting his confidence during the trying times.

"He helped me with my techniques a lot and told me to go all out on every play," Williams said. "When you come from college, you have some stuff, and you try to use it but it doesn't work up here. Johnny would say, 'That's not going to work,' and he helped me out a whole lot."

Williams started all 16 regular-season games in '96 and finished third on the team with 83 tackles, including one-half sack. He tied Reggie White for the team lead in fumble recoveries with three.

Williams' surprising play and the additions of veteran free safety Eugene Robinson and defensive tackle Santana Dotson were critical in the transformation of the Green Bay defense into the No. 1-ranked unit in the NFL.

The 6-foot-1 1/2, 235-pound linebacker also excelled in the post season. He forced and recovered a fumble by San Francisco running back William Floyd in the fourth quarter of the Packers' 35-14 playoff victory over the 49ers on a muddy Lambeau Field. And Williams contributed five tackles and an interception in the Packers' 35-21 Super Bowl victory over New England in New Orleans.

The Super Bowl experience, coming so early in Williams' pro career, is one he won't soon forget.

"Before some games you have jitters, but that game they kind of stayed in there a little longer, until about halfway through the first quarter," he said.

"If you win, you're a great team. If you lose, you're going to see yourself on SportsCenter the rest of your life on those Super Bowl highlights. You'll be thought of as losing that game. It's a winner-take-all situation."

Williams intercepted New England quarterback Drew Bledsoe in the closing moments, giving Green Bay the ball at the Patriots' 21-yard line and setting up two kneel-down plays by the Packers' Brett Favre. Then the Super celebration could begin.

The 24-year-old linebacker said he was most surprised that New England abandoned its running game so soon, allowing the Packers to blitz nearly at will. Bledsoe attempted 48 passes and was sacked five times while throwing four interceptions.

"When you have a running back like Curtis Martin, you want to keep giving him the ball so maybe he can make something happen," Williams said. "It actually gave us a chance to send LeRoy (Butler) more. They fit right into our little game plan, and it eventually opened up the rush for Reggie (White)."

Williams missed the Packers' June minicamp, after undergoing arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage in his right knee, but he is expected to be ready for training camp in July.

"The doctors said (the scope) took 12 minutes, so it wasn't anything major," Williams said. "It's something that probably happened a while ago. It's good we took care of it now, so it didn't happen again this year."

"We're definitely going to be the team to beat."

Now comes the business of defending a Super Bowl title, something the Packers have not had to think about since the late 1960s. The Green Bay defense basically will be the same, with the exception of right end Sean Jones, who retired.

Free agent linebacker Wayne Simmons was re-signed, and Koonce should be back in the middle when he is fully recovered from a knee injury suffered in the 49ers playoff game.

"We're definitely going to be the team to beat," Williams said. "After beating the 49ers now the last three times, we're going to be the team."

Yet there's still that hurdle of beating Dallas in the regular season, a chance the Packers will be afforded on Nov. 23 at Lambeau Field. Williams, a native of Dallas, admits he hears from Cowboys fans when he's home in the off-season.

"Of course I get kidded," he said. "It's something you've got to deal with, but I don't mind. We're the world champions right now.

"I see a few of the Dallas players from time to time, and they always talk about the games. I told them, 'Wait until they come up to the frozen tundra.' I'm sure they've heard enough about the frozen tundra.

"They'll be up here though, and we'll be waiting for them."

Williams, who came on to emerge as the Packers' No. 3 tackler with 83 stops, derails Tampa Bay's Mike Alstott with effective necktie "approach."

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PACKERS "THREE-PEATED"

BY BUD LEA
Milwaukee Sentinel Columnist Emeritus

Long before the last champagne had been popped, before the last victory cigars were lit and the last congratulatory hugs were made, the atmosphere around the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Jan. 15, 1967, was filled with one question: Can the Green Bay Packers do it again next year?

Coming off the heels of their historic 35-10 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in pro football's first Super Bowl, the question seemed irrelevant and unfair—but inevitable.

The answer at the moment: Of course, they'll be back. Who could possibly stop Vince Lombardi's big green machine from winning a third-straight championship?

Well, Father Time. Twelve starters on Green Bay's 1966 champions would be 30 years old or older. Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor, the Packers' renowned running tandem, would be gone. But they still would have the most enduring components a championship team must have—a strong defense, a terrific quarterback and a brilliant coach.

You want to talk about dynasties? You have to talk about Lombardi's Packers.

They had won NFL titles in 1961 and '62, but they failed to repeat the next season. Playing without their star halfback, Hornung, who was suspended by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle for gambling on pro football games, and without their great quarterback, Bart Starr, who broke his hand and missed four games, the Packers finished second to the Chicago Bears, with a 11-2-1 record. The next year they dropped to 8-5-1, finished second again, to the powerful Baltimore Colts.

They returned to the top in 1965 with a 10-3-1 record with fundamental football, beat the Colts in a playoff, and crushed the Cleveland Browns, 23-12, for the NFL title. The following season, they did even better, finishing with a 12-2 regular-season mark, defeating the Dallas Cowboys, 34-27, for the NFL title, and whipping the Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

Winning three straight championships was Lombardi's lifelong goal. An obsession.

"At our first meeting when training camp opened in the summer of '67 we sat down and he talked about the challenge," Jerry Kramer said, recalling the day. "He talked about how close we had come to winning three in a row, and how everybody would be laying for us with their fists cocked this time."

Travis Williams, a highly talented rookie from Arizona State with blistering speed, played a prominent role in the Packers' surge to a record, third straight NFL title in 1967. Shown here breaking into the open, Williams was first employed as a kickoff returner in midseason and became an instant sensation, averaging 41.1 yards for 18 runbacks—an average which remains an NFL record today—and returning 4 for touchdowns, a total which also remains a league record.

To put Lombardi's "three-peat" goal into perspective, no team in the entire NFL since the playoff system started in 1933 was able to do it.

The dictionary defines dynasty as "a sequence of rulers within the same family; period during which they ruled."

The '67 Packers reached this exclusive status by finishing first in the Central Division with a 9-4 record, destroying the Los Angeles Rams, 28-7, to win the Western Conference crown at County Stadium, outlasting the Cowboys, 21-17, at Green Bay for the NFL championship, and pounding the Oakland Raiders, 33-14, in the Super Bowl in Miami.

The Pittsburgh Steelers may have been the team of the 1970s, winning four Super Bowls. The San Francisco 49ers, and Dallas Cowboys may have ruled the '80s and early '90s, respectively, with three Super Bowl championships apiece. But all of them failed, trying to win three titles in a row.

Lombardi's Packers became to the NFL what the old New York Yankees were to baseball, what the Chicago Bulls are to the NBA. They represented the highest state of the art. They were not a team, they were a mystique.

A player automatically moved up in class when he played for the Packers. For one thing, his surrounding cast had high standards.

That standard included five NFL championships and the first two Super Bowl titles and a gaudy playoff winning percentage of .900 (9-1). This became a living nightmare for the rest of the NFL.

They became winners when they put on the Green and Gold and played alongside Bart Starr, Carroll Dale, Boyd Dowler, Max McGee, Forrest Gregg, Jerry Kramer, Fuzzy Thurston, Willie Davis, Henry Jordan, Ray Nitschke, Herb Adderley and Willie Wood. Players like Bob Jeter, Gale Gillingham, Jim Grabowski, Donny Anderson, Travis Williams, Ben Wilson and Chuck Mercein rose to the occasions when they had to play.

Lombardi gave them their edge. He was convinced the Packers belonged in this position of dominance. They were, in his mind, football's equivalent to the Yankees and Celtics, franchises that break the confines of their respective sport to become part of the American fabric.

It wasn't easy.

Taylor had decided to play out his option with the Packers in '66 when Lombardi would not raise his salary to match the pay of bonus babies Anderson and Grabowski.

Taylor signed with the New Orleans Saints. The Saints selected Hornung in the expansion draft, but he announced his retirement because a chronic neck condition had resulted in damage to his spinal cord.

"We're going to miss Hornung," Lombardi said. "We will replace the other fellow."

Lombardi did have this thing about loyalty.

When Lombardi opened training camp,

Henry Jordan up and quit. He turned in his play book one night and said he had had enough. It wasn't the money that bothered Jordan, just a general letdown in enthusiasm, a feeling that the rewards of football weren't worth the pains anymore. After a long talk with Lombardi and several veterans, Jordan decided to stay.

Travis Williams, the rookie from Arizona State who could run the 100 in 9.3 seconds, was really struggling. Nervous and pressing too hard, he fumbled so much that Lombardi told him to carry a football everywhere he went—into the shower, to meals, to meetings, to bed. "And then maybe you will learn how to hold onto the damned thing," Lombardi told him.

Lionel Aldridge, a key member of the defensive line, broke his leg against the Chicago Bears in the annual Shrine Game at County Stadium and would be in a cast for six weeks. The Packers beat the Bears, 18-0, finished the pre-season 6-0, and hopes were high.

The Packers opened the 1967 regular season at Lambeau Field against the Detroit Lions. After they rallied from a 17-0 deficit to tie the Lions, 17-17, Lombardi was livid the next day after showing game films to the players. He accused them of having too many outside interests, lack of complete dedication, and lack of a singleness of purpose.

The Chicago Bears came to Green Bay, fought the Packers tooth and nail, but left 13-10 losers. The next game was at Milwaukee, and the Packers beat the Atlanta Falcons, 23-0. But the Packers paid a steep price when Starr got injured in the first quarter when linebacker Tommy Nobis and safety Bob Riggle nailed him blitzing. Starr missed the next two games and Zeke Bratkowski, his backup, quarterbacked a convincing 27-17 victory over the Lions at Detroit. However, it was his costly interception that the Minnesota Vikings used for a 10-7 upset win over the Packers in Milwaukee.

"We were kind of staggering around," Kramer said. "Our next game was in New York, and there was some question whether we were really going to turn our season around and be there at the end or not.

"There was an article in the New York Times. It was the classic kind of article Lombardi would have planted or had written. It was about the 'old men of Green Bay. Can the old men do it?' It really ticked us off. We went out and beat the Giants in Yankee Stadium. Beat the crap out of them. It really got our motor running. We took off."

After trailing 14-10 at halftime, the Packers scored 38 second-half points and crushed the Giants, 48-21. Starr returned and threw his first touchdown pass of the season, but it was the running of Jim Grabowski and Elijah Pitts that did the Giants in.

The Packers won five of their next six games, losing only to the Colts, 13-10.

Travis Williams returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown and the Packers defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 31-23. It was a sign of things to come. Williams returned two kickoffs 87- and 85-yards—to lead the Packers over the Browns, 55-7, at County Stadium. They returned to Lambeau Field and shut out the 49ers, 13-0.

The Packers took a luxurious 2 1/2 game Central Division lead into Wrigley Field, stopped the Bears, 17-13, and clinched the division title. Then they went to Minnesota and edged the Vikings, 30-27.

With nothing to play for except pride, they took on the title-bidding Rams in Los Angeles and lost, 27-24, on a blocked punt. They finished the regular season at Green Bay and lost to the Steelers, 24-17.

There was a general feeling of gloom after the loss to Pittsburgh. Finally, it looked like time was running out on the Packers. But Lombardi got excited and got everybody excited about the playoffs.

They would face the Rams, who came into County Stadium with a 11-1-2 record. They eliminated the Rams when it counted the most, 28-7.

This set up the most memorable game in Packers history—the Ice Bowl. It would be Lombardi's final game at Lambeau Field as Green Bay coach.

"Lots of better players than you guys have come through here," he told his team before taking on the Cowboys. "But you're the type of ballplayers I want. You've got character. You've got heart. You've got guts."

The Packers won, 21-17. Compared with that dramatic victory over Dallas, Super Bowl II would be easy, as the Packers overwhelmed the Oakland Raiders, 33-14.

"It took great focus, great determination, a great commitment to win three straight championships," Kramer said when asked what the legacy of the '66 Packers should be. "We weren't quite the ballclub we were in '62. We had to rely much more on heart and desire and pride and all of those intangibles that Lombardi had talked about."

This was a team of one for all and all for one. This was Vince Lombardi's greatest coaching job, taking a team of aging veterans and replacements and driving them to a third straight world championship.

It was a crowning achievement of a man and an era.

"GUARDIAN ANGEL": Jerry Kramer (64) shields running back Donny Anderson form the enemy in 1967 game against the Cleveland Browns in Milwaukee County Stadium.

ICE BOWL ARRIVES UNEXPECTEDTLY

BY BUD LEA
Milwaukee Sentinel Columnist Emeritus

Nobody could possibly have been prepared for what happened on Dec. 31, 1967, at Lambeau Field. Not the Green Bay Packers, not the Dallas Cowboys, and certainly not the 50,861 fans who paid $10 a ticket, a capacity crowd which has since grown 100 times if you believe everyone who claims he or she was there.

After all, the temperature at game time was 13 degrees below zero with a wind chill of 46 below. It was for championship games like this in the dead of a Green Bay winter that television and living rooms were invented.

Welcome to the Ice Bowl.

On the morning of the game, National Football League officials were concerned whether the game should be played. They didn't know about the damage the bitter cold might cause to the players, and they really weren't sure what the fans could take.

Commissioner Pete Rozelle had conveniently avoided the game. He had flown to Oakland, Calif., to attend the American Football League championship game between the Raiders and the Houston Oilers that same afternoon.

Jim Kensil, executive director of the NFL, talked to the Cowboys' team doctor before the game. The Dallas physician said the only danger was with frostbite, and that could be minimized if socks were changed often and other common sense was followed.

When Kensil told Vince Lombardi that he was going to ask James Nellen, the Packers' doctor, about it, Lombardi fumed, "What do you want to talk to a doctor about it for? The weather's beautiful. The sun is shining! It's a great day!"

Lombardi talked about it as if it were nothing.

Many thought that under the incredible weather conditions it would be a terrible football game. Instead, it was a great game.

The Packers took a 14-0 lead on two long scoring drives engineered by Bart Starr. Then the Cowboys, ignoring the elements, took a 17-14 lead on the first play of the fourth quarter when Dan Reeves pitched a halfback option pass to Lance Rentzel, a play that covered 51 yards.

Shadows began creeping across the field and the temperature was dropping to 20 below zero.

The clock showed 4:54 to play when Starr huddled with his offense, 68 yards from the Dallas goal line. What transpired was the most incredible drive in Packers history.

With 16 seconds left in the game, the Packers had the ball on the Dallas 1. Starr told Lombardi he wanted to sneak it in for the winning touchdown.

The Cowboys thought Starr might roll out or throw or run, depending on what he saw. He could always throw incomplete and stop the clock to give the Packers time to kick a field goal and send the game into overtime.

If Starr's sneak failed, the Cowboys would have won. Time would have run out before the Packers had a chance to run another play.

But Starr knifed into an opening as guard Jerry Kramer and center Ken Bowman drove Jethro Pugh, the Cowboys' defensive tackle, back. And when he landed in the Dallas end zone, Lambeau Field went plum crazy.

THE STORIED 'SNEAK': Quarterback Bart Starr burrows into the end zone from the one yard line, with only 13 seconds remaining, for the winning touchdown in the legendary Ice Bowl Game on December 31, 1967. The wind chill registered 50 degrees below zero as the Packers prevailed, 21-17.

1967

BY BUD LEA
Milwaukee Sentinel Columnist Emeritus

Ezra Johnson, one of the premier defensive ends in Packer history (1977-87) left, longtime Packer coach and scout John "Red" Cochran, center, and four children of posthumous honoree Travis Williams pose with Packer Hall of Fame plaques following induction dinner in Green Bay. The trio's enshrinement increase the Hall's membership to 118.

PACKER "HALL" INDUCTS COCHRAN, EZRA JOHNSON & TRAVIS WILLIAMS

No story of the Green Bay Packers would be complete without the memories of John "Red" Cochran, Ezra Johnson and Travis Williams.

All three were formally enshrined into the Packer Hall of Fame March 9 during the Hall's annual induction dinner which drew nearly 1,000 loyalists to Green Bay's Regency Conference Center. Plaques engraved with their likeness will hang among other Packer greats.

Cochran served as the Packers' offensive backfield coach from 1959 through 1966 under Vince Lombardi and again from 1971 through 1974 under Dan Devine. He still is in the Packer organization as a college scout at age 74, covering the northern part of the country.

Johnson, the second of two first-round draft choices by the Packers in 1977, still is the team's all-time sack leader. The defensive end from Morris Brown College in Atlanta nailed the quarterback 84 times during an 11-year career with the Packers.

Williams, who died in 1991, seemed to create excitement every time he touched the ball. As a fourth-round draft choice out of Arizona State in 1967, he took the league by storm, returning four kickoff returns for touchdowns. That National Football League record still stands today as does his 41.1-yard average per return.

Lombardi hired Cochran away from the Detroit Lions, where he had been backfield coach for three years. He had been a star athlete at Wake Forest and could have chosen pro football or baseball. He decided on football and played with the Chicago Cardinals from 1947 through 1950.

They said the toughest job would be backfield coach under Lombardi. But Cochran had the know-how and drive to help develop Jim Taylor and Paul Hornung into All-Pro running backs. He had the same effect on John Brockington and MacArthur Lane in 1972.

Cochran once gave a different side of Lombardi. That was when he moved into a bare house in Green Bay with his wife and two baby girls while they waited for their furniture to arrive from Detroit. Vince and Marie Lombardi stopped by, expecting to see them all moved in.

When they walked into the house and saw Red and his wife, Pat, and two babies, Lombardi said, "Come, on, you are coming home with us." So off the Cochrans went. They stayed with the Lombardis for a week.

Cochran and his wife still live in DePere.

Some observers doubted the wisdom when the Packers used a first-round draft pick to select Johnson, a 225-pound defensive end from tiny Morris Brown College. But Bart Starr saw Johnson as too good to pass up. Starr was right.

In 1978, Johnson and teammate Mike Butler established themselves as one of the NFL's most devastating defensive end tandems. Johnson thundered through blocks to sack the quarterback 20 1/2 times and Butler complemented that with 11 1/2 more sacks.

In the season opener against the Lions, Johnson sacked quarterback Greg Landry five times and had Lions' tackle Lynn Boden talking to himself before he was removed from the game. That performance laid the groundwork for selection to the Pro Bowl.

No one who saw Williams in 1967 will forget him. In a Monday night game at St. Louis, regular kickoff returner Herb Adderley injured his arm. Lombardi tapped Williams for the starting assignment.

Underdog St. Louis led, 23-17, in the fourth quarter, with momentum on its side, when it kicked off straight to the untested rookie. He gathered the ball in on the seven, zipped full-speed behind the Packers' flying wedge, broke a tackle, and raced 93 yards to the end zone.

That broke the Cardinals, who eventually lost, 31-23. It left millions of television viewers asking, along with them, "Who, or what, was that?"

Two weeks later, the Packers were on national television again, and Williams hustled home two kickoffs, 85 and 87 yards in the first quarter, to key a 55-7 annihilation of the Cleveland Browns at County Stadium. By now every football buff knew about him, including Browns coach Blanton Collier.

"Of course we knew about him," Collier said. "We may be bad football coaches, but we're not stupid. We talked constantly about him, the way he could change games around. That's what he did in St. Louis, and that's what he did today."

Before Williams came around no one had ever run back more than three kickoffs for touchdowns in a single season. Travis ran back four in 1967. He might have run back even more, but opponents began kicking away from him.

Ken Bowman, who was Williams' roommate at Green Bay and his presenter at the Hall of Fame banquet, recalled how the entire team used to enjoy watching game films of the Packers special teams. "When they kicked off to Travis, they took their pursuit angles to try to head him off," Bowman said. "But when he turned the corner, Willie Wood and Herb Adderley would jump up from the bench and yell, 'Beep, beep! There goes the Roadrunner.' After two or three steps he was in full flight."

As a rookie speedster out of Arizona State in '67, Williams averaged 41.1 yards per kickoff return, still an NFL record for a season.

In a playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams, Williams scored two touchdowns from scrimmage, one on a 46-yard dash off tackle. He was considered Lombardi's secret weapon.

The high point of his life came when he celebrated his 23rd birthday on the day the Packers crushed the Raiders in Super Bowl II in Miami's Orange Bowl.

Yet life was never very fair to Williams. He got caught in a downward spiral of financial setbacks and personal tragedies that caused him to be homeless for three years.

He never made more than $28,000 a season playing for the Packers, and $35,000 while playing one season with the Rams.

Twelve years after his NFL career had ended, his money and his house were gone. Even his Super Bowl ring had been stolen.

When he turned 45 and became eligible for a $300 monthly NFL pension, Williams took it, even though he would have gotten as much as $580 a month had he waited another 10 years.

Other than a dollar bill that was found in his shoe, Williams was penniless when he died Feb. 18, 1991.

The 1996 Final Statistics

TEAM FIGURES

	PACKERS	OPPONENTS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	338	248
By Rushing	118	74
By Passing	197	151
By Penalty	23	23
Third Downs: Made/Att	97/219	74/226
Third Down Percentage	44.3	32.7
Fourth Downs: Made/Att	5/11	14/22
Fourth Down Percentage	45.5	63.6
POSSESSION AVERAGE	31:44	28:16
TOTAL NET YARDS	5,535	4,156
Average Per Game	345.9	259.8
Total Plays	1,053	981
Average Per Play	5.3	4.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1,838	1,416
Average Per Game	114.9	88.5
Total Rushes	465	400
Average Per Rush	3.95	4.1
NET YARDS PASSING	3,697	2,740
Average Per Game	231.1	171.3
Sacked/Yards Lost	40/241	37/202
Gross Yards	3,938	2,942
Attempts/Completions	548/328	544/283
Per Cent Completions	59.9	52.0
Had Intercepted	13	26
PUNTS/AVERAGE	68/42.4	90/43.1
Net Punting Average	36.3	32.5
PENALTIES/YARDS	92/714	107/797
FUMBLES/BALLS LOST	33/11	25/13
TOUCHDOWNS	56	19
By Rushing	9	7
By Passing	39	12
By Returns	8	0
EXTRA POINTS: ATT/MADE	53/51	17/17
FIELD GOALS: ATT/MADE	27/21	27/25
Field Goal Percentage	77.8	92.6
TOTAL POINTS	456	210

SCORING BY QUARTERS

	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
GREEN BAY	76	125	136	116	3	456
OPPONENTS	32	96	25	57	0	210

INDIVIDUAL FIGURES

SCORING

	TDr	TDp	TDrt	PAT	FG	TP
Jacke	0	0	0	51	21	114
Jackson	0	10	0	0	0	60
Levens	5	5	0	0	0	60
Freeman	0	9	0	0	0	54
Beebe	0	4	2	0	0	36
Brooks	0	4	0	0	0	24
Bennett	2	1	0	2	0	22
Howard	0	0	3	0	0	18
Favre	2	0	0	0	0	12
Mayes	0	2	0	0	0	12
Mickens	0	2	0	0	0	12
Rison	0	1	0	0	0	6
Butler	0	0	1	0	0	6
Evans	0	0	1	0	0	6
Henderson	0	1	0	0	0	6
Koonce	0	0	1	0	0	6
PACKERS	9	39	8	51	21	456
OPPONENTS	7	12	0	17	75	210

RUSHING

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Bennett	222	899	4.0	23	2
Levens	121	566	4.7	24	5
Favre	49	136	2.8	23	2
Henderson	39	130	3.3	14	0
Jervey	26	106	4.1	12	0
Brooks	4	2	0.5	6	0
McMahon	4	-1	-0.2	2	0
PACKERS	465	1,838	4.0	24	9
OPPONENTS	400	1,416	3.5	37t	7

RECEIVING

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Freeman	56	933	16.7	51t	9
Jackson	40	505	12.6	51t	10
Beebe	39	699	17.9	80t	4
Levens	31	226	7.3	49	5
Bennett	31	176	5.7	25t	1
Chmura	28	370	13.2	29	0
Henderson	27	203	7.5	27	1
Brooks	23	344	15.0	38	4
Mickens	18	161	8.9	19	2
Rison	13	135	10.4	22t	1
Howard	13	95	7.3	12	0
Mayes	6	46	7.7	12	2
Thomason	3	45	15.0	24	0
PACKERS	328	3,938	12.0	80t	39
OPPONENTS	283	2,942	10.4	69	12

PASSING

	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	TD	Int
Favre	543	325	3,899	59.9	39	13
McMahon	4	3	39	75.0	0	0
Hentrich	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
PACKERS	548	328	3,938	59.9	39	13
OPPONENTS	544	283	2,942	52.0	12	26

PUNTING

	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	LG	Blk
Hentrich	68	2,886	42.4	9	28	65	0
PACKERS	68	2,886	42.4	9	28	65	0
OPPONENTS	90	3,876	43.1	4	15	63	1

PUNT RETURNS

	No	FC	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Howard	58	16	875	15.1	92t	3
Prior	0	1	0	----	----	0
PACKERS	58	17	875	15.1	92t	3
OPPONENTS	29	15	237	8.2	26	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Howard	22	460	20.9	40	0
Beebe	15	403	26.9	90t	1
Levens	5	84	16.8	29	0
Henderson	2	38	19.0	23	0
Freeman	1	16	16.0	16	0
Jervey	1	17	17.0	17	0
Thomason	1	20	20.0	20	0
PACKERS	47	1,038	22.1	90t	1
OPPONENTS	76	1,649	21.7	45	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Robinson	6	107	17.8	39	0
Butler	5	149	29.8	90t	1
Evans	5	102	20.4	63	1
Koonce	3	84	28.0	75t	1
Newsome	2	22	11.0	20	0
White	1	46	46.0	46	0
Prior	1	7	7.0	7	0
Dowden	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hollinquest	1	2	2.0	2	0
Simmons	1	0	0.0	0	0
PACKERS	26	524	20.2	90t	3
OPPONENTS	13	98	7.5	41	0

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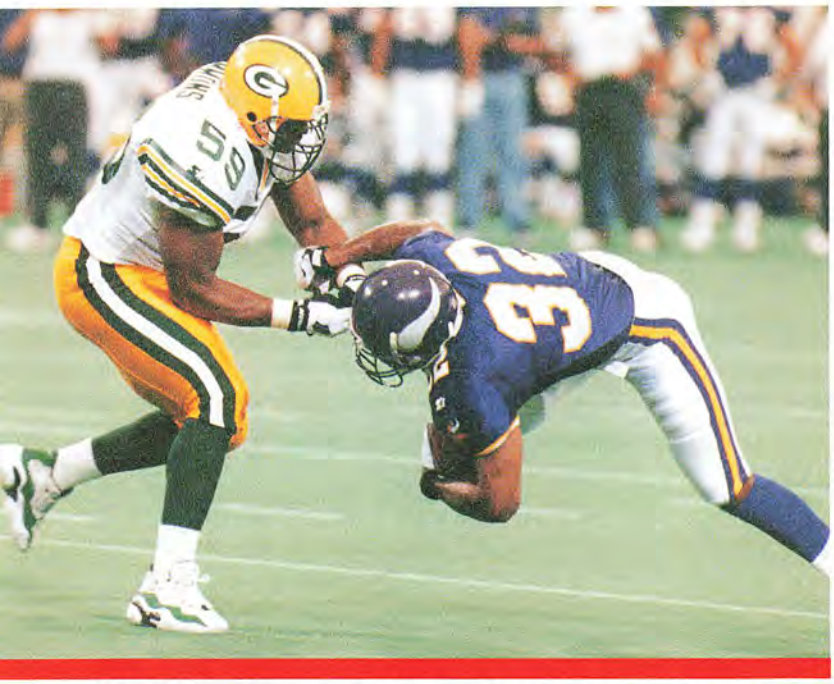
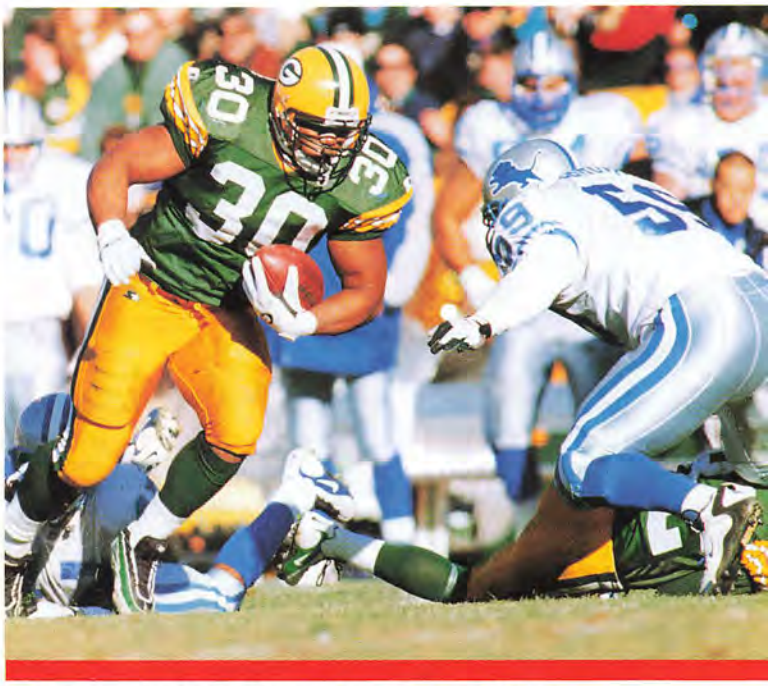


Linebacker Wayne Simmons, one of the more "physical" members of Green Bay's league-best defense, tosses aside Viking running back Amp Lee (32) during September 22 matchup at the Metrodome in Minneapolis.



A key factor in the Packers' improved ground game in 1996 via his thunderous blocking, second-year fullback William Henderson also made his presence felt as a runner and pass receiver, contributing 333 yards of total offense.

PRE-SEASON

(3-1)

AT GREEN BAY

New England Patriots	**0**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**7**
Green Bay Packers	**0**	**3**	**7**	**14**	**24**

GB: TD-Satterfield (2) Thomason. PAT-Jacke, Cunningham (2). FG–Jacke.
NE: TD–Brisby. PAT–Vinatieri.
Attendance: 57,918.

AT GREEN BAY

Pittsburgh Steelers	**0**	**11**	**3**	**3**	**17**
Green Bay Packers	**7**	**7**	**7**	**3**	**24**

GB: TD–Jackson, Freeman, Howard. PAT–Jacke (2), Cunningham. FG–Jacke.
PIT: TD–Holliday. PAT-Stewart run. FG–Wood (2), Johnson.
Attendance: 59,284.

AT BALTIMORE

Green Bay Packers	**7**	**0**	**7**	**3**	**17**
Baltimore Ravens	**0**	**2**	**7**	**6**	**15**

GB: TD–Brooks, Satterfield. PAT–Jacke, Cunningham. FG–Cunningham.
BAL: TD–Roe, Ethridge. PAT-Stover. SAFETY-Favre.
Attendance: 62,025.

AT INDIANAPOLIS

Green Bay Packers	**0**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**6**
Indianapolis Colts	**6**	**7**	**7**	**10**	**30**

IND: TD–Harrison, Dawkins, Bailey. PAT–Blanchard (3). FG–Blanchard (3).
GB: FG–Jacke (2).
Attendance: 49,081.

Total Points GB: 71 OPP: 69

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Total Pre-Season Attendance			228,308
Average Attendance			57,077
2 Home	117,202	**Avg**	58,601
2 Away	111,106	**Avg**	55,553

SEASON RESULTS

(13-3)

		Score		Paid Attendance	Site
(W)	Tampa Bay	34	3	54,102	Tampa
(W)	Philadelphia	39	13	60,666	Green Bay
(W)	San Diego	42	10	60,584	Green Bay
(L)	Minnesota	21	30	64,168	Minneapolis
(W)	Seattle	31	10	59,973	Seattle
(W)	Chicago	37	6	65,480	Chicago
(W)	San Francisco	23	20	60,716	Green Bay
	Bye				
(W)	Tampa Bay	13	7	60,627	Green Bay
(W)	Detroit	28	18	60,695	Green Bay
(L)	Kansas City	20	27	79,281	Kansas City
(L)	Dallas	6	21	65,032	Dallas
(W)	St. Louis	24	9	61,499	St. Louis
(W)	Chicago	28	17	59,682	Green Bay
(W)	Denver	41	6	60,712	Green Bay
(W)	Detroit	31	3	73,214	Detroit
(W)	Minnesota	38	10	59,306	Green Bay
Total Points		456	210		
Avg. Points		28.5	13.1		
Total League Attendance				1,005,737	
Avg Attendance				62,859	
8 Home Games				482,988	
Avg/Home Game				60,374	
8 Away Games				522,749	
Avg/Away Game				65,344	

PLAYOFF RESULTS

(3-0)

(W)	San Francisco	35	14	60,787	Green Bay
(W)	Carolina	30	13	60,216	Green Bay
(W)	New England	35	21	72,301	New Orleans

Terrific in Tampa

GAME ONE (1-0)

Green Bay Packers	**10**	**14**	**10**	**0**	**34**
Tampa Bay	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**

GB—FG Jacke, 23
GB—Jackson, 1 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
TB—FG Husted, 48
GB—Jackson, 4 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Jackson, 51 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 40
GB—Levens, 1 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)

	GB	TB
First Downs	24	15
Rushes, Yards	35-139	23-59
Passing Yards	267	117
Comp-Att-Int	21-28-0	13-30-4
Offensive Plays	64	54
Return Yards	162	106
Punting	2-44.5	3-46.3
Penalties	6-40	3-20
Time of Possession	38:56	21:04

Rushing

GB—Bennett 13-62, Levens 12-48, Jervey 5-13, Henderson 3-13, Brooks 1-2, Favre 1-1; TB—Brooks 6-20, Alstott 5-15, Thompson 4-14, Ellison 8-10.

Passing

GB—Favre 27 atts, 20 comp, 247 yds, 4 TD, 0 int; McMahon 1 atts, 1 comp, 24 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; TB—Dilfer 30 atts, 13 comp, 123 yds, 0 TD, 4 int.

Receiving

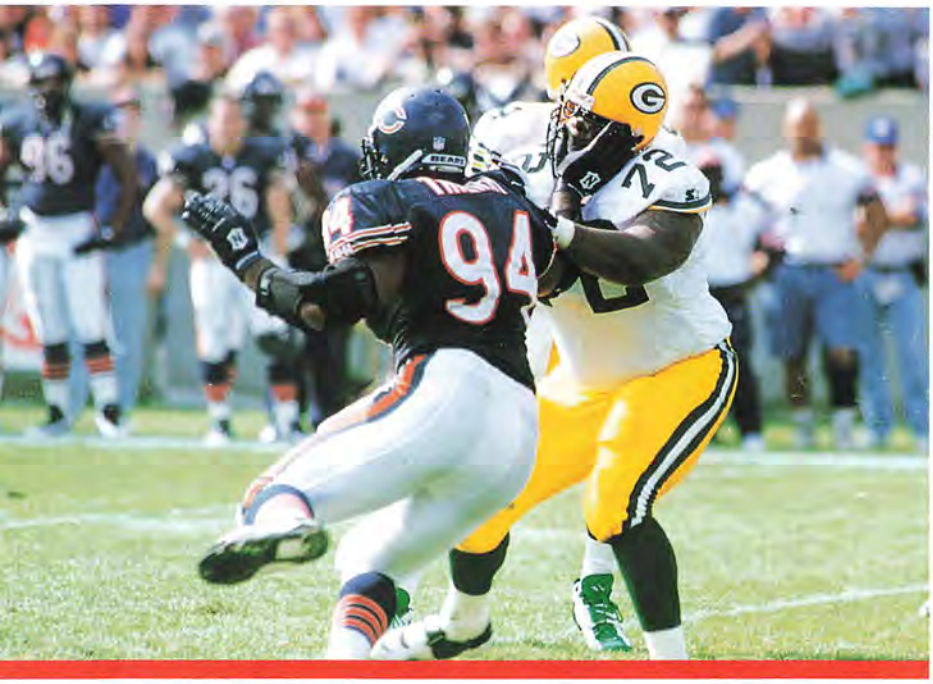
GB—Freeman 6-82, Jackson 5-76, Brooks 3-25, Chmura 2-24, Levens 2-20, Thomason 1-24, Henderson 1-12, Bennett 1-8; TB—Alstott 4-42, Harper 3-35, Harris 2-19, Hawkins 2-16, Thompson 1-6, Moore 1-5.

Interceptions

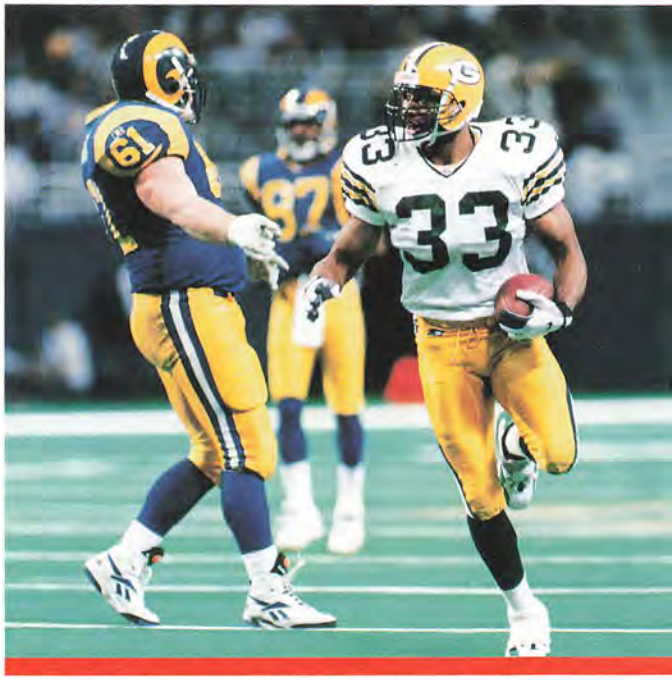
GB—Butler (2), Prior, Hollinquest; TB—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—White, Newsome; TB—Scott, Abraham.



Earl Dotson, still a youthful 26, has become an impressively efficient fixture at right tackle on offense over the past two seasons, which have seen him start 31 of a possible 32 regular games and 6 post season contests.



Cornerback Doug Evans, making one of many big plays of a Super Bowl season, is enroute to a tide-turning touchdown following an early third quarter interception against the Rams in 24-9 win.

Too Fast for Philly

GAME TWO (2-0)

Philadelphia Eagles	0	7	0	6	13
Green Bay Packers	10	20	7	2	39

GB—FG Jacke, 29
GB—Brooks, 25 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 44
GB—Levens, 1 run (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 38
PH—Watters, 1 run (Anderson XP)
GB—Brooks, 20 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Bennett, 25 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Safety, Peete tackled in end zone
PH—Garner, 1 run (Two-point failed)

	PH	GB
First Downs	14	23
Rushes, Yards	17-59	38-171
Passing Yards	200	261
Comp-Att-Int	16-36-3	17-32-0
Offensive Plays	56	71
Return Yards	113	83
Punting	5-48.4	3-54.7
Penalties	8-49	5-23
Time of Possession	23:33	36:27

Rushing

GB—Bennett 17-93, Henderson 6-40, Levens 9-25, Jervey 3-12, Favre 2-3, McMahon 1 (minus 2); PH—Watters 10-38, Garner 3-10, Detmer 2-7, Peete 2-4.

Passing

GB—Favre 31 atts, 17 comp, 261 yds, 3 TD, 0 int; Hentrich 1 atts, 0 comp, 0 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; PH—Peete 25 atts, 10 comp, 142 yds, 0 TD, 3 int; Detmer 11 atts, 6 comp, 70 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Brooks 5-130, Bennett 5-49, Chmura 2-31, Jackson 2-27, Henderson 2-3, Freeman 1-21; PH—Jones 4-63, Garner 3-21, Ingram 2-33, Turner 2-14, Seay 2-12, Fryer 1-50, Dunn 1-18, Watters 1-1.

Interceptions

GB—Koonce, Dowden, Evans; PH—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Williams; PH—0.

Happy 'Homecoming'

GAME THREE (3-0)

San Diego Chargers	3	0	0	7	10
Green Bay Packers	7	14	7	14	42

GB—Bennett, 10 run (Jacke XP)
SD—FG Carney, 43
GB—Freeman, 19 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Henderson, 8 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Jackson, 7 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
SD—Martin, 9 pass from Humphries (Carney XP)
GB—Butler, 90 pass interception (Jacke XP)
GB—Howard, 65 punt return (Jacke XP)

	SD	GB
First Downs	11	23
Rushes, Yards	13-33	36-132
Passing Yards	108	217
Comp-Att-Int	18-35-2	22-34-2
Offensive Plays	53	71
Return Yards	123	232
Punting	7-51.9	3-38.0
Penalties	8-55	10-90
Time of Possession	21:22	38:38

Rushing

GB—Bennett 13-65, Levens 9-39, Jervey 4-14, Henderson 4-8, Favre 3-7, Brooks 2 (minus 1), McMahon 1-0; SD—Russell 9-27, Fletcher 3-3, Hayden 1-3.

Passing

GB—Favre 34 atts, 22 comp, 231 yds, 3 TD, 1 int; SD—Humphries 31 atts, 16 comp, 130 yds, 1 TD, 2 int; Salisbury 4 atts, 2 comp, 14 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Brooks, 8-108, Chmura 4-35, Henderson 4-26, Jackson 2-10, Beebe 1-28, Freeman 1-19, Bennett 1-4, Levens 1-1; SD—Coleman 5-31, Fletcher 4-20, Martin 3-38, Jones 3-28, Pupunu 2-25, May 1-2.

Interceptions

GB—Butler (2); SD—Clark, Harper.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Williams; SD— Bush.

Same Old Story

GAME FOUR (3-1)

Green Bay Packers	7	0	14	0	21
Minnesota Vikings	7	7	3	13	30

GB—Brooks, 13 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
MN—Reed, 26 pass from Moon (Sisson XP)
MN—Ismail, 20 pass from Moon (Sisson XP)
MN—FG Sisson, 34
GB—Beebe, 80 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Koonce, 75 interception return (Jacke XP)
MN—Smith, 37 run (Sisson XP)
MN—FG Sisson, 44
MN—FG Sisson, 33

	GB	MN
First Downs	8	18
Rushes, Yards	15-60	33-88
Passing Yards	157	263
Comp-Att-Int	14-27-1	24-41-2
Offensive Plays	49	76
Return Yards	267	144
Punting	8-47.5	6-45.8
Penalties	8-79	7-45
Time of Possession	22:01	37:59

Rushing

GB—Bennett 11-33, Favre 2-25, Henderson 2-2; MN—Smith 26-88, Lee 4-1, Moon 2-1, Johnson 1 (minus 2).

Passing

GB—Favre 27 atts, 14 comp, 198 yds, 2 TD, 1 int; MN—Moon 40 atts, 24 comp, 280 yds, 2 TD, 2 int; Johnson 1 atts, 0 comp, 0 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

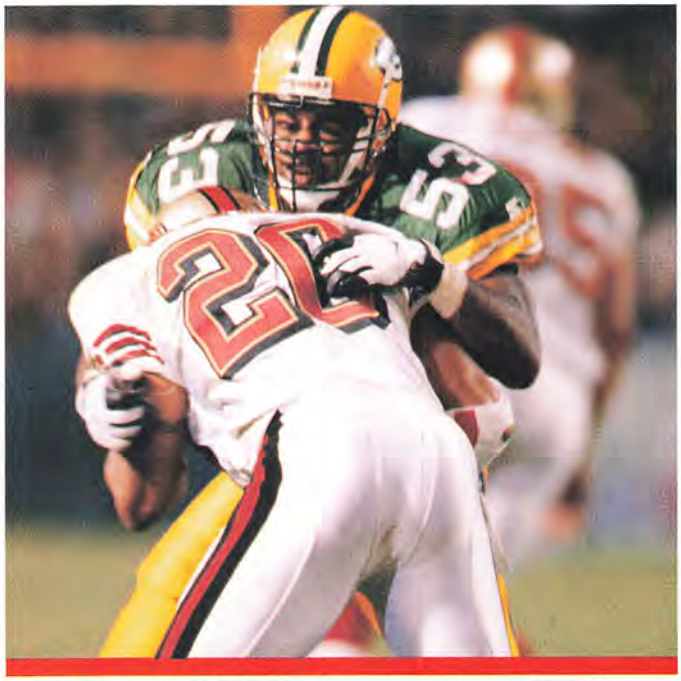
GB—Beebe 3-96, Freeman 3-34, Bennett 3-10, Henderson 1-21, Brooks 1-13, Chmura 1-11, Howard 1-11, Levens 1-2; MN—Reed 7-129, Carter 5-65, Lee 4-27, Jordan 3-21, Ismail 2-23, Smith 2-9, Evans 1-6.

Interceptions

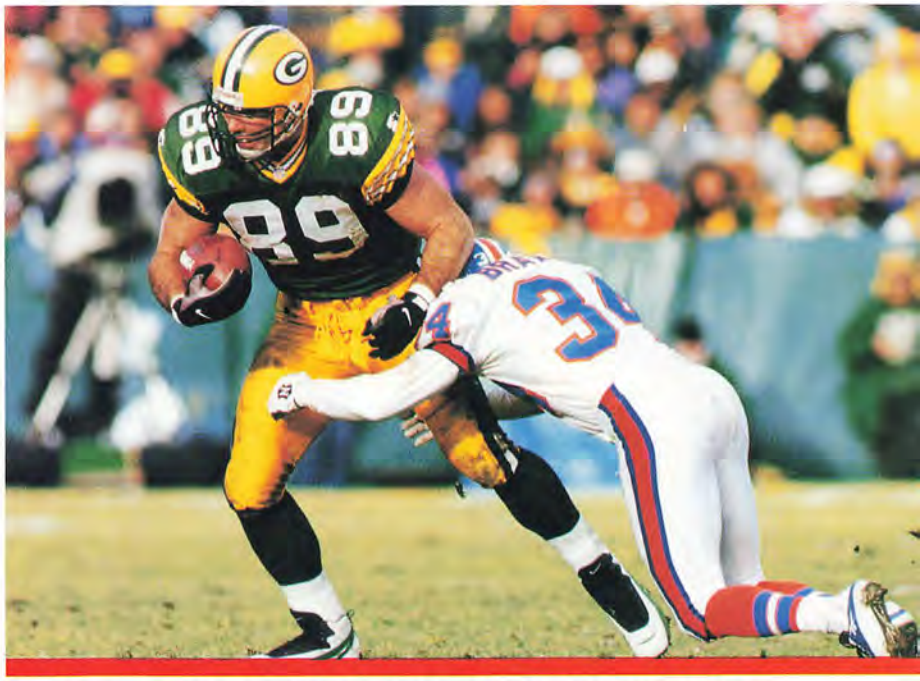
GB—Koonce, Robinson; MN—Griffith.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—White, unidentified; MN—Thomas, Brady, Alexander.



George Koonce effectively calls a halt to 49ers running back Derek Lovell during Packers' 23-20, overtime victory against San Francisco in a "Monday Night Football" showdown.



Mark Chmura, showing no signs of the sprained arch that has sidelined him for the previous three games, has just made one of 7 catches for a season-high 70 yards against the Denver Broncos (December 8).

Success in Seattle

GAME FIVE (4-1)

Green Bay Packers	**10**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**31**
Seattle Seahawks	**0**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**10**

GB—Freeman, 13 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 36
GB—Levens, 4 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
SE—Warren, 37 run (Peterson XP)
GB—Jackson, 10 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
SE—FG Peterson, 44
GB—Freeman, 4 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)

	GB	SE
First Downs	23	19
Rushes, Yards	35-142	26-159
Passing Yards	202	170
Comp-Att-Int	20-34-0	11-34-4
Offensive Plays	71	61
Return Yards	263	170
Punting	7-43.4	6-47.0
Penalties	5-37	6-38
Time of Possession	35:34	24:26

Rushing

GB—Bennett 22-94, Levens 6-28, Favre 5-15, Henderson 2-5; SE—Warren 18-103, Galloway 2-22, Mirer 2-17, Broussard 1-10, Smith 2-5, Friesz 1-2.

Passing

GB—Favre 34 atts, 20 comp, 209 yds, 4 TD, 0 int; SE—Mirer 30 atts, 10 comp, 156 yds, 0 TD, 4 int; Friesz 4 atts, 1 comp, 15 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Freeman 7-108, Chmura 3-36, Levens 3-18, Beebe 2-15, Bennett 2-9, Jackson 1-10, Henderson 1-8, Howard 1-5; SE—Warren 3-44, Fauria 3-36, Pritchard 2-54, Blades 2-22, Galloway 1-15.

Interceptions

GB—Evans, White, Robinson, Newsome; SE—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—S. Dotson; SE—0.

A Breeze in Windy City

GAME SIX (5-1)

Green Bay Packers	**0**	**20**	**14**	**3**	**37**
Chicago Bears	**0**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**6**

GB—Brooks, 18 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
CH—FG Jaeger, 40
GB—Jackson, 2 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Freeman, 50 pass from Favre (XP missed)
CH—FG Jaeger, 41
GB—Beebe, 90 kickoff return (Jacke XP)
GB—Freeman, 35 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 32

	GB	CH
First Downs	21	15
Rushes, Yards	29-100	27-53
Passing Yards	248	190
Comp-Att-Int	19-28-1	19-32-3
Offensive Plays	58	60
Return Yards	143	152
Punting	2-36.5	3-52.7
Penalties	4-25	7-68
Time of Possession	28:49	31:11

Rushing

GB—Bennett 12-32, Jervey 6-25, Levens 5-23, Favre 3-15, Henderson 2-4, Brooks 1-1, ; CH—Salaam 20-43, Hicks 4-7, Krieg 3-3.

Passing

GB—Favre 27 atts, 18 comp, 246 yds, 4 TD, 1 int; McMahon 1 atts, 1 comp, 5 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; CH—Krieg 27 atts, 15 comp, 142 yds, 0 TD, 3 int; Stenstrom 4 atts, 3 comp, 37 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; Sauerbrun 1 atts, 1 comp, 16 yds, 0 TD, 0 int

Receiving

GB—Freeman 7-146, Brooks 6-68, Bennett 2-15, Jackson 2-11, Beebe 1-6, Thomason 1-5; CH—Conway 9-101, Timpson 4-54, Carter 3-8, Engram 2-30, Salaam 1-2.

Interceptions

GB—Simmons, Koonce, Evans; CH—Carter.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; CH—0.

49ers Felled in OT

GAME SEVEN (6-1)

San Francisco 49ers	**0**	**17**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**20**
Green Bay Packers	**6**	**0**	**8**	**6**	**3**	**23**

GB—FG Jacke, 30
GB—FG Jacke, 25
SF—FG Wilkens, 48
SF—Rice, 7 pass from Grbac (Wilkens XP)
SF—Rice, 13 pass from Grbac (Wilkens XP)
GB—Beebe, 59 pass from Favre (Bennett 2-pt pass from Favre)
GB—FG Jacke, 35
SF—FG Wilkens, 28
GB—FG Jacke, 31
GB—FG Jacke, 53

	SF	GB
First Downs	14	24
Rushes, Yards	28-74	26-68
Passing Yards	179	378
Comp-Att-Int	21-39-2	28-61-2
Offensive Plays	68	89
Return Yards	188	122
Punting	9-41.7	6-39.8
Penalties	9-65	2-24
Time of Possession	28:57	34:44

Rushing

GB—Favre 6-24, Bennett 7-18, Levens 10-16, Henderson 3-10; SF—Vardell 8-31, Kirby 10-27, Lynn 3-11, Loville 3-4, Grbac 4-1.

Passing

GB—Favre 61 atts, 28 comp, 395 yds, 1 TD, 2 int; SF—Grbac 39 atts, 21 comp, 182 yds, 2 TD, 2 int.

Receiving

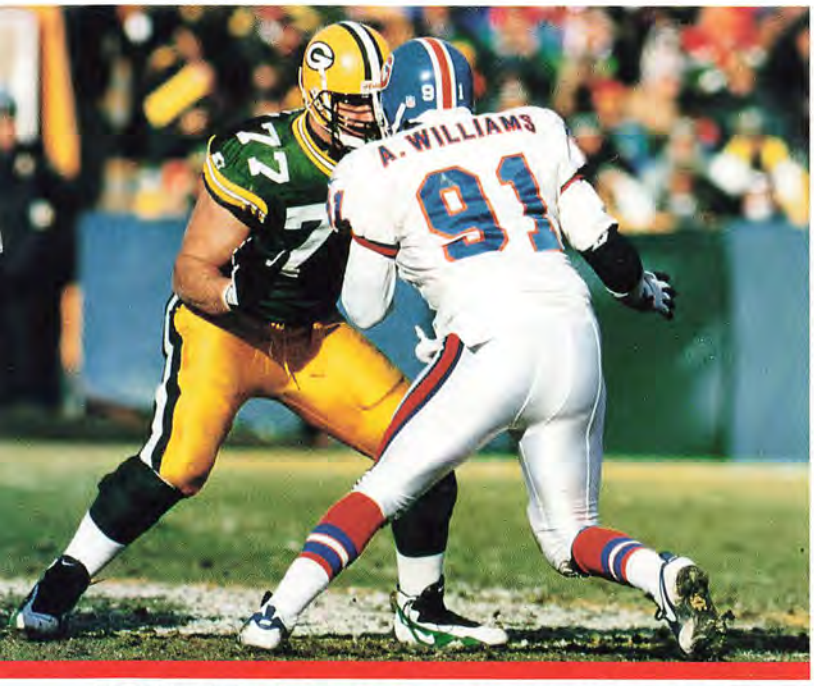
GB—Beebe, 11-220, Freeman 6-71, Howard 4-30, Jackson 2-53, Henderson 2-12, Mayes 1-5, Bennett 1-3, Levens 1-1; SF—Rice 7-84, Vardell 6-44, Kirby 4-15, Popson 3-39, Loville 1-0.

Interceptions

GB—Butler, Robinson; SF—Stubblefield, Pope.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; SF—0.



John Michels (77), a first round draft selection in 1996, steps in this season as the successor to the retired Ken Ruettgers at left tackle after being named to the college and Pro Football News Weekly NFL All-Rookie team.

MISMATCH: Menacing 305-pound Taylor, leading the way for running back Edgar Bennett, draws a bead on retreating Detroit defender, Jocelyn Borgella (27).

Bucs Bested

GAME EIGHT (7-1)

Tampa Bay Buccaneers	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**7**
Green Bay Packers	**3**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**13**

GB—FG Jacke, 40
GB—Levens, 1 run (Jacke XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 48
TB—Moore, 11 pass from Dilfer (Husted XP)

	TB	GB
First Downs	14	24
Rushes, Yards	26-57	37-129
Passing Yards	139	169
Comp-Att-Int	15-29-2	19-31-1
Offensive Plays	58	70
Return Yards	140	62
Punting	5-29.8	2-42.5
Penalties	6-45	4-20
Time of Possession	29:30	30:30

Rushing

GB—Bennett 20-93, Levens 7-21, Henderson 3-13, Favre 7-2; TB—Rhett 12-29, Brooks 7-14, Alsott 4-8, Dilfer 2-3, Ellison 1-3.

Passing

GB—Favre 31 atts, 19 comp, 178 yds, 0 TD, 1 int; TB—Dilfer 29 atts, 15 comp, 164 yds, 1 TD, 2 int.

Receiving

GB—Howard 5-30, Chmura 3-59, Beebe 3-23, Mayes 2-20, Levens 2-10, Bennett 2-7, Henderson 1-16, Jackson 1-13; TB—Alsott 4-34, Williams 3-38, Moore 2-28, Thomas 2-28, Hawkins 2-25, Harper 1-7, Ellison 1-4.

Interceptions

GB—Evans, Robinson; TB—Lynch.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; TB—Johnson.

It's 'Mickens Day'

GAME NINE (8-1)

Detroit Lions	**3**	**7**	**0**	**8**	**18**
Green Bay Packers	**7**	**7**	**14**	**0**	**28**

DE—FG Hanson, 48
GB—Levens, 1 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
DE—Sanders, 18 run (Hanson XP)
GB—Mickens, 1 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Mickens, 6 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Beebe, 65 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
DE—Perriman, 8 pass from Majkowski (Moore-Majkowski pass)

	DE	GB
First Downs	18	23
Rushes, Yards	26-166	24-101
Passing Yards	127	254
Comp-Att-Int	15-32-0	24-35-1
Offensive Plays	63	63
Return Yards	121	70
Punting	5-37.2	5-31.4
Penalties	10-91	8-55
Time of Possession	26:42	33:18

Rushing

GB—Bennett 17-68, Levens 4-25, Henderson 2-7, Favre 1-1; DE—Sanders 20-152, Majkowski 5-12, Rivers 1-2.

Passing

GB—Favre 35 atts, 24 comp, 281 yds, 4 TD, 1 int; DE—Majkowski 32 atts, 15 comp, 153 yds, 1 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Mickens 7-52, Beebe 4-106, Jackson 3-35, Bennett 3-27, Chmura 2-28, Henderson 2-13, Levens 2-11, Howard 1-9; DE—Perriman 7-87, Moore 4-50, Morton 3-17, Sanders 1 (minus 1).

Interceptions

GB—0; DE—McNeil.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; DE—0.

Misery in Missouri

GAME TEN (8-2)

Green Bay Packers	**3**	**3**	**7**	**7**	**20**
Kansas City Chiefs	**3**	**17**	**7**	**0**	**27**

KC—FG Stoyanovich, 26
GB—FG Jacke, 24
KC—FG Stoyanovich, 22
KC—Hill, 8 run (Stoyanovich XP)
KC—Hill, 34 pass from Bono (Stoyanovich XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 49
KC—Hill, 24 run (Stoyanovich XP)
GB—Beebe, 25 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Mayes, 6 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)

	GB	KC
First Downs	24	19
Rushes, Yards	20-75	40-182
Passing Yards	289	201
Comp-Att-Int	27-49-1	9-22-0
Offensive Plays	73	63
Return Yards	119	93
Punting	6-41.8	7-36.0
Penalties	7-82	9-81
Time of Possession	29:09	30:51

Rushing

GB—Bennett 12-37, Levens 5-25, Favre 2-10, Henderson 1-3; KC—Hill 14-94, Allen 10-48, Bennett 8-22, Anders 3-17, McNair 1-3, Bono 4 (minus 2).

Passing

GB—Favre 49 atts, 27 comp, 310 yds, 2 TD, 1 int; KC—Bono 22 atts, 9 comp, 204 yds, 1 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

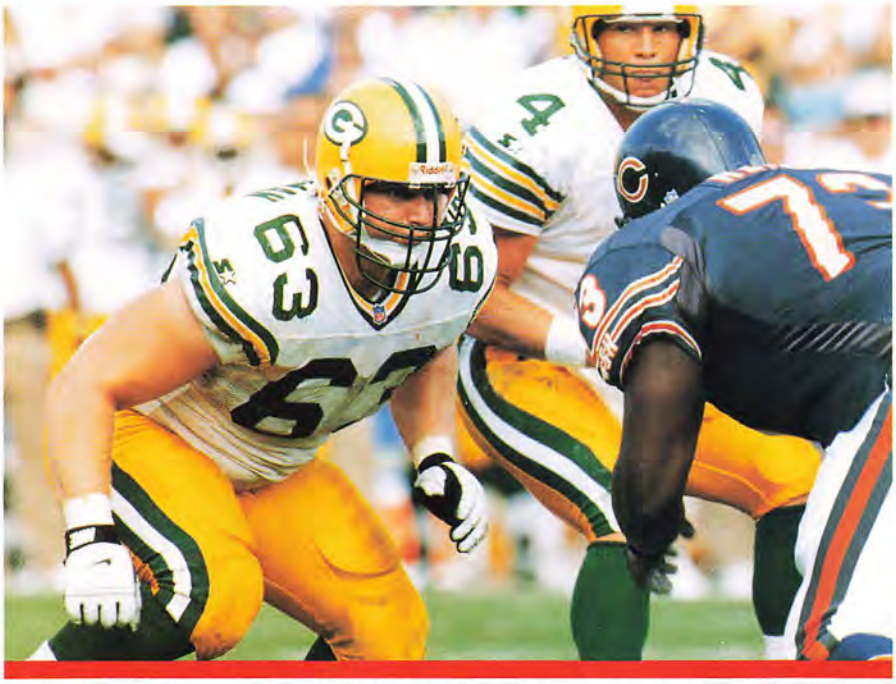
GB—Levens 5-83, Henderson 5-62, Bennett 4-10, Beebe 3-52, Jackson 3-33, Mickens 3-35, Mayes 2-18, Chmura 1-11, Howard 1-10; KC—LaChappelle 2-89, Anders 2-41, Hill 1-34, Horn 1-21, Penn 1-12, McNair 1-5, Johnson 1-2.

Interceptions

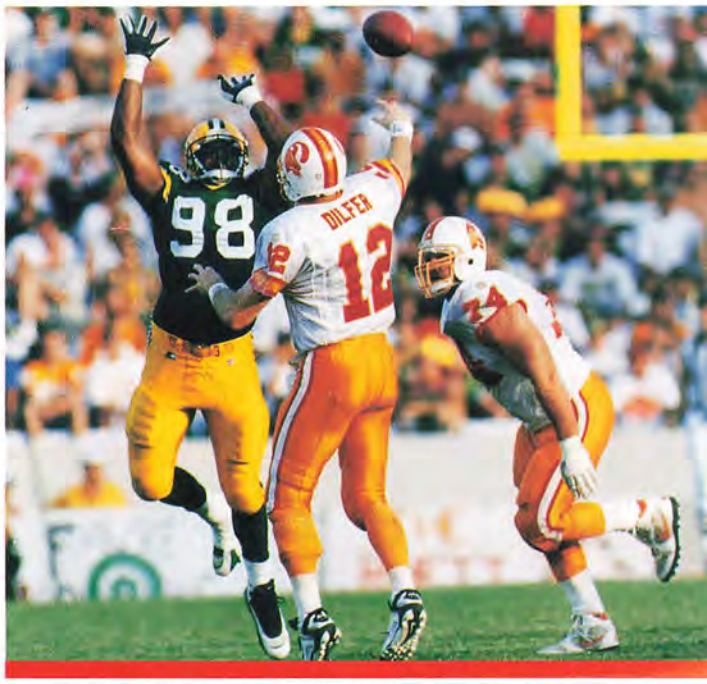
GB—0; KC—Washington.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; KC—0.



Adam Timmerman, poised to protect Brett Favre, started all 16 regular-season games and all three playoff contests in 1996—including Super Bowl XXXI against New England, a rare parlay for a second-year offensive lineman.



Gabe Wilkins, leaping on high to deflect a Trent Dilfer pass, is the scheduled successor to the retired Sean Jones at right end in Green Bay's defensive line.

Bad Night in 'Big D'

GAME ELEVEN (8-3)

Green Bay Packers	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**6**
Dallas Cowboys	**6**	**9**	**0**	**6**	**21**

DA—FG Boniol, 45
DA—FG Boniol, 37
DA—FG Boniol, 42
DA—FG Boniol, 45
DA—FG Boniol, 35
DA—FG Boniol, 39
GB—Mayes, 3 pass from Favre (XP pass failed)
DA—FG Boniol, 28

	GB	DA
First Downs	15	16
Rushes, Yards	21-90	28-112
Passing Yards	164	205
Comp-Att-Int	21-37-0	24-35-0
Offensive Plays	62	64
Return Yards	169	50
Punting	7-44.9	4-45.0
Penalties	6-28	5-25
Time of Possession	27:01	32:59

Rushing

GB—Bennett 8-48, Levens 9-26, Favre 3-14, Henderson 1-2; DA—Smith 20-76, Williams 4-29, Johnston 3-9, Aikman 1 (minus 2).

Passing

GB—Favre 37 atts, 21 comp, 194 yds, 1 TD, 0 int; DA—Aikman 35 atts, 24 comp, 206 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Jackson 7-98, Mickens 5-38, Levens 3-21, Bennett 2-5, Thomason 1-16, Beebe 1-10, Henderson 1-3, Mayes 1-3; DA—Smith 6-16, Irvin 5-66, Johnston 4-18, Williams 3-47, Bjornson 3-40, Sanders 2-14, Martin 1-5.

Interceptions

GB—0; DA—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; DA—0.

Comeback City

GAME TWELVE (9-3)

Green Bay Packers	**0**	**3**	**14**	**7**	**24**
St. Louis Rams	**0**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**9**

SL—Bruce, 6 pass from Banks (Lohmiller XP)
SL—Favre, sacked in end zone
GB—FG Jacke, 37
GB—Evans, 32 interception return (Jacke XP)
GB—Jackson, 6 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Levens, 5 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)

	GB	SL
First Downs	15	15
Rushes, Yards	27-58	23-65
Passing Yards	185	165
Comp-Att-Int	25-38-2	17-37-1
Offensive Plays	66	63
Return Yards	119	44
Punting	6-44.3	7-49.3
Penalties	6-47	7-36
Time of Possession	32:40	27:20

Rushing

GB—Bennett 15-31, Levens 4-23, Henderson 4-4, Favre 4-0; SL—Green 12-43, Phillips 9-23, Banks 1-0, Thomas 1 (minus 1).

Passing

GB—Favre 38 atts, 25 comp, 192 yds, 2 TD, 2 int; SL—Banks 37 atts, 17 comp, 170 yds, 1 TD, 1 int.

Receiving

GB—Rison 5-44, Beebe 4-46, Bennett 4-28, Levens 4-18, Mickens 3-36, Jackson 3-17, Henderson 2-3; SL—Bruce 6-53, Conwell 5-53, Green 3-32, Laing 2-19, Wright 1-13.

Interceptions

GB—Evans; SL—Jones, Lyle.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Williams, Butler; SL—0.

Easy to Bear

GAME THIRTEEN (10-3)

Chicago Bears	**0**	**7**	**3**	**7**	**17**
Green Bay Packers	**0**	**7**	**7**	**14**	**28**

CH—Engram, 15 pass from Krieg (Jaeger XP)
GB—Jackson, 19 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Howard, 75 punt return (Jacke XP)
CH—FG Jaeger, 34
GB—Levens, 10 run (Jacke XP)
GB—Favre, 1 run (Jacke XP)
CH—Engram, 5 pass from Krieg (Jaeger XP)

	CH	GB
First Downs	21	20
Rushes, Yards	25-84	26-126
Passing Yards	208	216
Comp-Att-Int	29-45-1	19-27-0
Offensive Plays	71	55
Return Yards	80	150
Punting	5-40.2	4-40.3
Penalties	3-30	2-10
Time of Possession	32:22	27:38

Rushing

GB—Levens 5-69, Bennett 16-51, Favre 4-4, Henderson 1-2; CH—Harris 24-79, Conway 1-5.

Passing

GB—Favre 27 atts, 19 comp, 231 yds, 1 TD, 0 int; CH—Krieg 45 atts, 29 comp, 218 yds, 2 TD, 1 int.

Receiving

GB—Freeman 10-156, Jackson 3-34, Beebe 2-18, Rison 2-14, Levens 1-8, Henderson 1-1; CH—Conway 7-65, Harris 5-28, Engram 4-46, Timpson 4-38, Carter 4-21, Green 3-8, Neely 2-12.

Interceptions

GB—Robinson; CH—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; CH—0.

Santana Dotson, here striving to wheel past Detroit's Jeff Hastings (64), provided Green Bay's defense with a long sought inside pass rush as a first year Packer in 1996, weighing in with 5.5 quarterback sacks and 6 passes defensed.

Center Frank Winters, a highly durable performer who rarely misses a play, fends off Chargers' vaunted Junior Seau (55).

Bronco-Busters

GAME FOURTEEN (11-3)

Denver Broncos	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**6**
Green Bay Packers	**3**	**10**	**7**	**21**	**41**

GB—FG Jacke, 33
DN—FG Elam, 40
GB—FG Jacke, 22
GB—Freeman, 14 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
DN—FG Elam, 39
GB—Freeman, 51 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Jackson, 1 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Freeman, 25 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Beebe, recovered Jervey fumble (Jacke XP)

	DN	GB
First Downs	9	22
Rushes, Yards	24-93	29-103
Passing Yards	83	276
Comp-Att-Int	13-24-0	20-38-2
Offensive Plays	51	68
Return Yards	173	69
Punting	5-34.8	2-39.0
Penalties	10-65	7-45
Time of Possession	27:25	32:35

Rushing

GB—Levens 14-86, Bennett 9-5, Jervey 3-7, Henderson 1-3, Favre 2-2; DN—Davis 14-54, Hebron 7-30, Musgrave 1-6, Lewis 1-4, Craver 1 (minus 1).

Passing

GB—Favre 38 atts, 20 comp, 280 yds, 4 TD, 2 int; DN—Musgrave 21 atts, 12 comp, 101 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; Lewis 3 atts, 1 comp, 5 yds, 0 TD, 0 int.

Receiving

GB—Freeman 9-175, Chmura 4-70, Jackson 3-20, Levens 2-7, Rison 1-7, Henderson 1-1; DN—Sharpe 4-34, McCaffrey 3-41, Miller 2-18, Sherrard 1-7, Smith 1-6, Hebron 1-5, Craver 1 (minus 5).

Interceptions

GB—0; DN—Braxton, Atwater.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Jones, White, Williams; DN—0.

Potent in Pontiac

GAME FIFTEEN (12-3)

Green Bay Packers	**3**	**7**	**6**	**15**	**31**
Detroit Lions	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**3**

GB—FG Jacke, 20
GB—Howard, 92 punt return (Jacke XP)
GB—Favre, 1 run (XP missed)
DE—FG Hanson, 39
GB—Levens, 1 run (Bennett pass from Favre, 2 pt)
GB—Freeman, 27 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)

	GB	DE
First Downs	20	19
Rushes, Yards	26-111	23-79
Passing Yards	225	186
Comp-Att-Int	16-25-1	23-40-1
Offensive Plays	54	67
Return Yards	233	169
Punting	2-44.0	5-44.0
Penalties	11-75	7-60
Time of Possession	27:01	32:59

Rushing

GB—Bennett 12-60, Levens 11-39, Henderson 1-9, Favre 2-3; DE—Sanders 21-78, Mitchell 1-2, Rivers 1 (minus 1).

Passing

GB—Favre 25 atts, 16 comp, 240 yds, 1 TD, 1 int; DE—Mitchell 40 atts, 23 comp, 207 yds, 0 TD, 1 int.

Receiving

GB—Beebe 4-79, Freeman 3-60, Rison 2-24, Chmura 2-22, Levens 2-18, Jackson 1-35, Bennett 1-1, Henderson 1-1; DE—Perriman 8-77, Morton 6-40, Moore 5-50, Matthews 2-33, Rivers 1-9, Sanders 1-(minus 2).

Interceptions

GB—Robinson; DE—Blades.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—0; DE—0.

Big Finish

GAME SIXTEEN (13-3)

Minnesota Vikings	**7**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**10**
Green Bay Packers	**7**	**3**	**14**	**14**	**38**

GB—Bennett, 5 run (Jacke XP)
MN—Carter, 43 pass from Johnson (Sisson XP)
GB—FG Jacke, 45
MN—FG Sisson, 34
GB—Levens, 13 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Rison, 22 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Jackson, 23 pass from Favre (Jacke XP)
GB—Levens, 11 run (Jacke XP)

	MN	GB
First Downs	12	29
Rushes, Yards	17-49	41-233
Passing Yards	203	207
Comp-Att-Int	17-34-1	16-25-0
Offensive Plays	53	68
Return Yards	118	174
Punting	8-41.9	3-41.0
Penalties	5-25	2-10
Time of Possession	22:50	37:10

Rushing

GB—Bennett 18, 109, Levens 11-73, Jervey 5-35, Favre 2-10, Henderson 3-5, McMahon 2-1; MN—Hoard 13-41, Lee 2-5, Graham 1-2, Johnson 1-1.

Passing

GB—Favre 23 atts, 15 comp, 202 yds, 3 TD, 0 int; McMahon 2 atts, 1 comp, 10 yds, 0 TD, 0 int; MN—Johnson 34 atts, 17 comp, 211 yds, 1 TD, 1 int.

Receiving

GB—Chmura, 4-43, Freeman 3-61, Rison 3-46, Jackson 2-33, Henderson 2-21, Levens 2-8; MN—Reed 5-74, Hoard 4-46, Carter 3-46, Evans 2-22, Lee 2-20, Frisch 1-3.

Interceptions

GB—Newsome; MN—0.

Opp Fumbles Rec.

GB—Koonce; MN—Bercich, Brady.

League Section

CAN PACKERS THREE-PEAT?

When Ron Wolf was called upon to assume direction of the Packers' NFL fortunes in 1991, he shortly announced that the key element in his agenda would be striving to dominate the National Football Conference's Central Division.

His rationale was based upon impeccable logic: Win the division championship and you are automatically in the playoffs. Once you have done that, anything is possible, including a trip to the Super Bowl.

In 1995, Wolf's first goal was achieved, the Packers claiming their first division title in 23 years and advancing all the way to the NFC championship game—one step short of the "Big Dance."

Then, in 1996, his fondest hopes were fulfilled as Head Coach Mike Holmgren's Green and Gold captured a second consecutive division crown and proceeded to win a divisional playoff, the NFC championship game and climax a hallmark season with a convincing, 35-21 triumph over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI at New Orleans, returning the Super Bowl title to Green Bay for the first time in 29 years.

With these achievements now history, a new and key question inevitably arises in 1997: Can the Packers "three-peat?"

Based upon a '96 season in which they forged a club-record 16 victories and led the NFL in both points scored and fewest points allowed, they are sure to be consensus favorites to turn the trick, particularly with Pro Bowl quarterback Brett Favre returning off winning back-to-back league Most Valuable Player honors.

Should they make the prognosticators look good and win a third straight championship, it would be the first such parlay in a decade—since the Chicago Bears won five straight NFC Central titles from 1984 through 1988 under the mercurial Mike Ditka, who returns to the NFL this season as head coach of the New Orleans Saints.

Their neighbor to the northwest, Minnesota, is considered most likely to stand athwart the Packers' path in this pursuit. Aside from the Green and Gold, the Vikings have been the division's most consistent entry over the past five years, winning 47 games and two division titles over that span, the most recent of the latter in 1994 when the Purple Gang posted a 10-6 record.

The Detroit Lions, under new Head Coach Bobby Ross, a proven winner, also should prove to be highly competitive with a talented cast including the redoubtable Barry Sanders, Scott Mitchell, Herman Moore and Johnnie Morton still in evidence.

Chicago's Bears likewise could be a factor under the scheduled leadership of new quarterback Rick Mirer while the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, possessors of a much-improved Trent Dilfer and a stout defense under the highly respected Tony Dungy, are poised to post their first winning season in more than a decade.

The NFL in 1996

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
Dallas	10	6	0	.625	286	250
Philadelphia*	10	6	0	.625	363	341
Washington	9	7	0	.562	364	312
Arizona	7	9	0	.438	300	397
New York Giants	6	10	0	.375	242	297

Central Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
Green Bay	13	3	0	.813	456	210
Minnesota*	9	7	0	.562	298	315
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	283	305
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	221	293
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	302	368

Western Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
Carolina	12	4	0	750	367	218
San Francisco*	12	4	0	.750	398	257
St. Louis	6	10	0	.375	303	409
Atlanta	3	13	0	.188	309	465
New Orleans	3	13	0	.188	229	339

* Wild Card Playoff Team

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
New England	11	5	0	.688	418	313
Buffalo*	10	6	0	.625	319	266
Indianapolis*	9	7	0	.562	317	334
Miami	8	8	0	.500	339	325
New York Jets	1	15	0	.063	279	454

Central Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	344	257
Jacksonville*	9	7	0	.562	325	335
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	372	369
Houston	8	8	0	.500	345	319
Baltimore	4	12	0	.250	371	441

Western Division

	W	L	T	PCT	PTS	OP
Denver	13	3	0	.813	391	275
Kansas City	9	7	0	.562	297	300
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	310	376
Oakland	7	9	0	.438	340	293
Seattle	7	9	0	.438	317	376

* Wild Card Playoff Team

NFC PLAYOFFS

First Round: DALLAS 40, Minnesota 15
SAN FRANCISCO 14, Philadelphia 0
Divisional: **GREEN BAY** 35, San Francisco 14
CAROLINA 26, Dallas 17
Championship: **GREEN BAY** 30, Carolina 13

AFC PLAYOFFS

First Round: Jacksonville 30, BUFFALO 27
PITTSBURGH 42, Indianapolis 14
Divisional: Jacksonville 30, DENVER 27
NEW ENGLAND 28, Pittsburgh 3
Championship: NEW ENGLAND 20, Jacksonville 6

NFC ALL-TIME STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct
Dallas Cowboys (37 Seasons)	331	212	6	.608
Chicago Bears (78)	600	387	42	.603
Carolina Cougars (2)	19	13	0	.594
San Francisco 49ers (48)	368	285	13	.562
New York Giants (73)	510	412	30	.551
Minnesota Vikings (37)	289	236	9	.550
Green Bay Packers (78)	531	437	37	.547
St. Louis Rams (51)	377	318	18	.541
Washington Redskins (60)	423	365	21	.536
Detroit Lions (64)	398	423	25	.485
Philadelphia Eagles (64)	372	431	21	.464
Arizona Cardinals (78)	389	549	14	.416
New Orleans Saints (30)	177	268	5	.399
Atlanta Falcons (31)	175	284	5	.383
Tampa Bay Buccaneers (21)	100	223	1	.310

AFC ALL-TIME STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct
Miami Dolphins (31 Seasons)	280	180	4	.608
Oakland Raiders (37)	328	211	11	.606
Baltimore Ravens (51)	378	278	10	.575
Kansas City Chiefs (37)	286	250	12	.533
San Diego Chargers (37)	273	264	11	.508
Denver Broncos (37)	269	269	10	.500
Indianapolis Colts (48)	317	323	7	.495
Pittsburgh Steelers (62)	402	415	19	.492
Buffalo Bills (37)	261	279	8	.484
Houston Oilers (37)	251	291	6	.464
New England Patriots (37)	248	291	9	.461
Cincinnati Bengals (29)	200	235	1	.460
Seattle Seahawks (21)	148	176	0	.457
New York Jets (37)	231	309	8	.429
Jacksonville Jaguars (2)	13	19	0	.406

Super Bowl Capsule

BOWL	YEAR	RESULT	SITE	ATTENDANCE
I	1967	**Green Bay** (NFL) 35, Kansas City (AFL) 10	Los Angeles	61,946
II	1968	**Green Bay** (NFL) 33, Oakland (AFL) 14	Miami	75,564
III	1969	New York (AFL) 16, Baltimore (NFL) 7	Miami	75,389
IV	1970	Kansas City (AFL) 23, Minnesota (NFL) 7	New Orleans	80,562
V	1971	Baltimore (AFC) 16, Dallas (NFC) 13	Miami	79,204
VI	1972	Dallas (NFC) 24, Miami (AFC) 3	New Orleans	81,023
VII	1973	Miami (AFC) 14, Washington (NFC) 7	Los Angeles	90,182
VIII	1974	Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFC) 7	Houston	71,882
IX	1975	Pittsburgh (AFC) 16, Minnesota (NFC) 6	New Orleans	79,997
X	1976	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFC) 17	Miami	80,187
XI	1977	Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFC) 14	Pasadena	103,424
XII	1978	Dallas (NFC) 27, Denver (AFC) 10	New Orleans	76,400
XIII	1979	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35, Dallas (NFC) 31	Miami	79,641
XIV	1980	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, Los Angeles (NFC) 19	Pasadena	103,985
XV	1981	Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFC) 10	New Orleans	75,500
XVI	1982	San Francisco (NFC) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21	Detroit	81,270
XVII	1983	Washington (NFC) 27, Miami (AFC) 17	Pasadena	103,667
XVIII	1984	Los Angeles (AFC) 38, Washington (NFC) 9	Tampa	72,920
XIX	1985	San Francisco (NFC) 38, Miami (AFC) 16	Stanford	84,059
XX	1986	Chicago (NFC) 46, New England (AFC) 10	New Orleans	73,818
XXI	1987	New York (NFC) 39, Denver (AFC) 20	Pasadena	101,063
XXII	1988	Washington (NFC) 42, Denver (AFC) 10	San Diego	73,302
XXIII	1989	San Francisco (NFC) 20, Cincinnati (AFC) 16	Miami	75,129
XXIV	1990	San Francisco (NFC) 55, Denver (AFC) 10	New Orleans	72,919
XXV	1991	New York (NFC) 20, Buffalo (AFC) 19	Tampa	73,813
XXVI	1992	Washington (NFC) 37, Buffalo (AFC) 24	Minneapolis	63,130
XXVII	1993	Dallas (NFC) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17	Pasadena	98,374
XXVIII	1994	Dallas (NFC) 30, Buffalo (AFC) 13	Atlanta	72,817
XXIX	1995	San Francisco (NFC) 49, San Diego (AFC) 26	Miami	74,107
XXX	1996	Dallas (NFC) 27, Pittsburgh (AFC) 17	Phoenix	76,347
XXXI	1997	**Green Bay** (NFC) 35, New England (AFC) 21	New Orleans	72,301

Chicago Bears

STAFF

Head Coach: Dave Wannstedt. Assistants: Keith Armstrong, Clarence Brooks, Matt Cavanaugh, Ivan Fears, Carlos Mainord, Willie Peete, Ted Plumb, Greg Schaino, Bob Slowik, Tony Wise. Home Field: Soldier Field, Capacity 66,950; Colors: Burnt Orange and Navy Blue; Address: Halas Hall at Conway Park, 1000 Football Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Raymont Harris, 194 for 748 yds, 3.9 avg; R. Salaam, 143 for496 yds, 3.5 avg.
PASSING–David Krieg, 377 atts, 226 comp, 59.9%, 2278 yds, 14 TDs, 12 INTs.
RECEIVING–Curtis Conway, 81 for 1049 yds, 13.0 avg; M. Timpson, 62 for 802 yds, 12.9 avg.
SCORING–Jeff Jaeger, 80 pts on 23 PATs, 19 FGs; Curtis Conway, 42 pts on 7 TDs.

PACKER-BEAR SERIES

Packers won 65, Bears won 82, tied 4; Points: Packers 2,344, Bears 2,595

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
84	Allred, John	TE
82	Bownes, Fabien	WR
63	Burger, Todd	G
35	Burton, James	CB
59	Cain, Joe	LB
20	Carrier, Mark	S
23	Carter, Marty	S
25	Carter, Tom	CB
30	Carter, Tony	FB
72	Clark, Jon	T
80	Conway, Curtis	WR/KR
52	Cox, Bryan	LB
38	Dulaney, Mike	FB
81	Engram, Bobby	WR
68	Flannigan, Jim	DT
29	Harris, Raymont	RB
57	Harris, Sean	LB
27	Harris, Walt	CB
64	Heck, Andy	T
95	Howard, Dana	LB
33	Hughs, Tyrone	KR/DB
88	Jackson, Jack	WR
1	Jaeger, Jeff	K
85	Jennings, Keith	TE
32	Joseph, Dwayne	SS
12	Kramer, Erik	QB
26	Mangum, John	CB
36	Marshall, Anthony	FS
24	Miniefield, Kevin	DB
92	Minter, Barry	LB
13	Mirer, Rick	QB
79	Parrish, James	T
75	Perry, Todd	G
54	Peterson, Anthoney	LB
65	Pilgram, Evan	G
69	Polk, Octus	G
83	Proehl, Ricky	WR
31	Salaam, Rashaan	RB
62	Sapp, Bob	C/G
16	Sauerbrun, Todd	P
98	Simpson, Carl	DT
55	Smith, Vinson	LB
90	Spellman, Alonzo	DE
18	Stenstrom, Steve	QB
91	Thierry, John	DE
74	Thomas, Mark	DE
58	Villarrial, Chris	C
89	Wetnight, Ryan	TE
71	Williams, James	DT
97	Zorich, Chris	DT

1996 RESULTS

(7-9)

22	DALLAS	6
3	at Washington	10
14	MINNESOTA	20
16	at Detroit	35
19	OAKLAND	17
6	**GREEN BAY**	37
24	at New Orleans	27
15	at Minnesota	13
13	TAMPA BAY	10
12	at Denver	17
10	at Kansas City	14
31	DETROIT	14
17	at **Green Bay**	28
35	ST. LOUIS	9
27	SAN DIEGO	14
19	at Tampa Bay	34
283		305

1997 SCHEDULE

Sep 1	**at Green Bay**
Sep 7	MINNESOTA
Sep 14	DETROIT
Sep 21	at New England
Sep 28	at Dallas
Oct 5	NEW ORLEANS
Oct 12	**GREEN BAY**
Oct 19	Bye
Oct 26	at Miami
Nov 2	WASHINGTON
Nov 9	at Minnesota
Nov 16	NY JETS
Nov 23	TAMPA BAY
Nov 27	at Detroit
Dec 7	BUFFALO
Dec 14	at St. Louis
Dec 21	at Tampa Bay

Minnesota Vikings

STAFF

Head Coach: Dennis Green. Assistants: Dave Atkins, Brian Billick, Foge Fazio, Jeff Friday, Carl Hargrave, Wade Harman, John Levra, Chip Myers, Tom Olivadotti, Ray Sherman, Richard Solomon, Mike Tice, Trent Walters, Steve Wetzel, Gary Zauner. Home Field: Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, Capacity 63,000; Colors: Purple, White, Gold; Address: 9520 Viking Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Robert Smith, 162 for 692 yds, 4.3 avg; Leroy Hoard 125 for 492 yds, 3.9 avg.
PASSING–Brad Johnson, 311 att, 195 comp, 62.7%, 2258 yds, 17 TDs, 10 INTs.
RECEIVING–Cris Carter, 96 for 1163 yds, 12.1 avg; Jake Reed, 72 for 1320 yds, 18.3 avg.
SCORING–Scott Sisson, 96 pts on 30 PATs, 22 FGs; Cris Carter, 60 pts on 10 TDs.

PACKER-VIKING SERIES

Packers won 34, Vikings won 36, tied 1; Points: Packers 1,389, Vikings 1,258

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
90	Alexander, Derrick	DE
30	Banks, Antonio	CB
56	Bercich, Pete	LB
17	Berger, Mitch	P
50	Brady, Jeff	LB
80	Carter, Cris	WR
74	Chalenski, Mike	DT
62	Christy, Jeff	C
99	Colinet, Stalin	DE
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB
85	DeLong, Greg	TE
76	Dill, Scott	T
71	Dixon, David	G
59	Edwards, Dixon	LB
38	Ellis, Kwame	CB
29	Evans, Charles	FB
72	Fisk, Jason	DT
83	Frisch, David	TE
27	Fuller, Corey	CB
53	George, Ron	LB
87	Goodwin, Hunter	TE
23	Gray, Torrian	S
24	Griffith, Robert	S
51	Hanks, Ben	LB
44	Hoard, Leroy	RB
14	Johnson, Brad	QB
35	Johnson, Chris	S
89	Jordan, Andrew	TE
61	Lindsay, Everett	G
75	Manley, James	DT
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB
64	McDaniel, Randall	G
68	Morris, Mike	RB
33	Morrow, Harold	FB
22	Palmer, David	RB
93	Randle, John	DE
86	Reed, Jake	WR
57	Rudd, Dwayne	LB
9	Sisson, Scott	K
95	Smith, Fernando	DE
26	Smith, Robert	RB
73	Steussie, Todd	T
28	Stewart, James	RB
77	Stringer, Korey	T
43	Thomas, Orlanda	S
6	Walker, Jay	QB
81	Walsh, Chris	WR
20	Washington, Dewayne	CB
21	Williams, Moe	RB
94	Williams, Tony	DT

1996 RESULTS

(9-7)

17	DETROIT	13
23	at Atlanta	27
20	at Chicago	14
30	**GREEN BAY**	21
10	at NY Giants	15
14	CAROLINA	12
13	at Tampa Bay	24
13	CHICAGO	15
6	KANSAS CITY	21
23	at Seattle	42
16	at Oakland	13
17	DENVER	21
41	ARIZONA	17
24	at Detroit	22
21	TAMPA BAY	10
10	at **Green Bay**	38
298		315

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Buffalo
Sep 7	at Chicago
Sep 14	TAMPA BAY
Sep 21	**at Green Bay**
Sep 28	PHILADELPHIA
Oct 5	at Arizona
Oct 12	CAROLINA
Oct 19	Bye
Oct 26	at Tampa Bay
Nov 2	NEW ENGLAND
Nov 9	CHICAGO
Nov 16	at Detroit
Nov 23	at NY Jets
Dec 1	**GREEN BAY**
Dec 7	at San Francisco
Dec 14	DETROIT
Dec 21	INDIANAPOLIS

Detroit Lions

STAFF

Head Coach: Bobby Ross; Assistants: Brian Baker, Sylvester Croom, Frank Falks, Jack Henry, Bert Hill, Stan Kwan, John Misciagna, Gary Moeller, Dennis Murphy, Bob Palcic, Joe Pascale, Larry Peccatiello, Chuck Priefer, Richar Selcer, Jerry Sullivan, Mark Trestman. Home Field: Pontiac Silverdome, Capacity 80,500; Colors: Honolulu Blue, Silver; Address: 1200 Featherstone Rd., Pontiac, MI 48342.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Barry Sanders, 307 for 1553 yds, 5.1 avg; Ron Rivers, 19 for 86 yds, 4.5 avg.
PASSING–Scott Mitchell, 437 att, 253 comp, 57.9%, 2917 yds, 317 TDs, 17 INTs.
RECEIVING–Herman Moore, 106 for 1296 yds, 12.2 avg; B. Perriman, 94 for 1021 yds, 10.9 avg.
SCORING–Jason Hanson, 72 pts on 36 PATs, 12 FGs; Barry Sanders, 66 pts on 11 TDs.

PACKER-LIONS SERIES

Packers won 70, Lions won 58, tied 7; Points: Packers 2,772, Lions 2,314

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
24	Abrams, Kevin	QB
51	Beer, Tom	LB
96	Bonham, Shane	DL
57	Boyd, Stephen	LB
59	Brown, Reggie	LB
22	Carrier, Mark	CB
77	Compton, Mike	C/G
76	Conover, Scott	G
92	Dronett, Shane	DT
94	Elliss, Luther	DE
27	Ford, Brad	CB
53	Glover, Kevin	G/C
50	Hamilton, Rick	LB
4	Hanson, Jason	K
74	Harrison, Chris	T
64	Hartings, Jeff	G
66	Hempstead, Hessley	C
81	Hickman, Kevin	TE
58	Jamison, George	LB
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB
18	Jett, John	P
13	Johnson, Johnny	QB
70	Jones, Jeff	T
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB
55	London, Antonioa	LB
26	Lynch, Eric	RB
39	Malone, Van	S
83	McCorvey, Kez	WR
89	Metzelaars, Pete	TE
33	Milburn, Glyn	RB
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB
84	Moore, Herman	WR
87	Morton, Johnnie	WR
91	Porcher, Robert	DE
31	Raymond, Cory	CB
14	Reich, Frank	QB
28	Rice, Ron	S
34	Rivers, Ron	RB
72	Roberts, Ray	T
20	Sanders, Barry	RB
30	Schlesinger, Cory	FB
97	Scroggins, Tracy	LB
62	Semple, Tony	G
86	Sloan, David	TE
38	Stewart, Ryan	S
44	Vardell, Tommy	FB
90	Washington, Keith	DE
95	Wells, Mike	DT
32	Westbrook, Bryant	CB
21	Williams, Allen	RB

1996 RESULTS

(5-11)

13	at Minnesota	17
21	TAMPA BAY	6
17	at Philadelphia	24
35	CHICAGO	16
27	at Tampa Bay	0
28	ATLANTA	24
21	at Oakland	37
7	NY GIANTS	35
18	at **Green Bay**	28
21	at San Diego	27
17	SEATTLE	16
14	at Chicago	31
24	KANSAS CITY	28
22	MINNESOTA	24
3	**GREEN BAY**	31
14	at San Francisco	24
302		368

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	ATLANTA
Sep 7	TAMPA BAY
Sep 14	at Chicago
Sep 21	at New Orleans
Sep 28	**GREEN BAY**
Oct 5	at Buffalo
Oct 12	at Tampa Bay
Oct 19	NY GIANTS
Oct 26	Bye
Nov 2	**at Green Bay**
Nov 9	at Washington
Nov 16	MINNESOTA
Nov 23	INDIANAPOLIS
Nov 27	CHICAGO
Dec 7	at Miami
Dec 14	at Minnesota
Dec 21	NY JETS

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

STAFF

Head Coach: Tony Dungy. Assistants: Mark Asanovich, Clyde Christensen, Herman Edwards, Chris Foster, Monte Kiffin, Aaron Komarek, Joe Marciano, Rod Marinelli, Tony Nathan, Kevin O'Dea, Mike Shula, Lovie Smith, Ricky Thomas, Charlie Williams. Home Field: Tampa Stadium, Capacity 74,321; Colors: Florida Orange, White, Red; Address: One Buccaneer Place, Tampa FL 33607.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Errict Rhett, 176 for 539 yds, 3.1 avg; Mike Alstott, 96 for 377 yds, 3.9 avg.
PASSING–Trent Diller, 428 atts, 267 comp, 55.4%, 2859 yds, 12 TDs, 19 INTs.
RECEIVING–Mike Alstott, 65 for 557 yds, 8.6 avg; Courtney Hawkins, 46 for 544 yds, 11.8 avg.
SCORING–Michael Husted, 93 pts on 18 PATs, 25 FGs; Mike Alstott, 36 pts on 6 TDs.

PACKER-BUCCANEER SERIES

Packers won 22, Bucs won 13, tied 0; Points: Packers 703, Bucs 524

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
21	Abraham, Donnie	CB
72	Ahanota, Chidi	DL
40	Alstott, Mike	FB
15	Anthony, Reidel	WR
27	Austin, Eric	FS
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P
23	Boulie, Tony	S
55	Brooks, Derrick	LB
88	Copeland, Horace	WR
77	Culpepper, Brad	DT
75	Curry, Eric	DE
64	Diaz, Jorge	G
12	Dilfer, Trent	QB
39	Dimry, Charles	CB
28	Dunn, Warrick	RB
37	Ellison, Jerry	RB
29	Gant, Kenneth	S
50	Gooch, Jeff	LB
74	Gruber, Paul	OT
82	Harper, Alvin	WR
81	Harris, Jackie	TE
5	Husted, Michael	K
67	Ingram, Stephan	T/G
97	Jackson, Tyoke	DT
25	Johnson, Melvin	S
57	Jones, LaCurtis	LB
78	Jones, Marcus	DT
45	Legette, Tyrone	CB
47	Lynch, John	S
89	Marshall, Marvin	WR
61	Mayberry, Tony	C
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB
73	Middleton, Frank	G
83	Moore, Dave	TE
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB
70	Odom, Jason	T
69	Pierson, Pete	T
59	Porter, Rufus	LB
60	Pyne, Jim	G
32	Rhett, Errict	RB
52	Rouse, Wardell	LB
99	Sapp, Warren	DT
38	Scott, Todd	S
87	Silvan, Nilo	WR
33	Staten, Robert	FB
82	Tate, Willy	TE
84	Thomas, Robb	WR
73	Upshaw, Regan	DE
4	Walsh, Steve	QB
71	Wunsch, Jerry	T

1996 RESULTS

(6-10)

3	**GREEN BAY**	34
6	at Detroit	21
23	at Denver	27
13	SEATTLE	17
0	DETROIT	27
24	MINNESOTA	13
9	at Arizona	13
7	at **Green Bay**	13
10	at Chicago	13
20	OAKLAND (ot)	17
25	at San Diego	17
13	NEW ORLEANS	7
0	at Carolina	24
24	WASHINGTON	10
10	at Minnesota	21
34	CHICAGO	19
221		293

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	SAN FRANCISCO
Sep 7	at Detroit
Sep 14	at Minnesota
Sep 21	MIAMI
Sep 28	ARIZONA
Oct 5	**at Green Bay**
Oct 12	DETROIT
Oct 19	Bye
Oct 26	MINNESOTA
Nov 2	at Indianapolis
Nov 9	at Atlanta
Nov 16	NEW ENGLAND
Nov 23	at Chicago
Nov 30	at NY Giants
Dec 7	**GREEN BAY**
Dec 14	at NY Jets
Dec 21	CHICAGO

Arizona Cardinals

STAFF

Head Coach: Bill Tobin. Assistants: George Chryst, Alan Everest, Joe Greene, Dick Jamieson, Larry Marmie, Carl Mauck, Dave McGinnis, Glenn Pires, Vic Rapp, Bob Rogucki, Johnny Roland. Home Field: Sun Devil Stadium, Capacity 73,521; Colors: Cardinal Red, White, Black; Address: Sun Devil Stadium, Box 888, Phoenix, AZ 85001.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–LeShon Johnson, 141 for 634 yds, 4.5 avg; Larry Centers, 116 for 425 yds, 3.7 avg.
PASSING–Kent Graham, 274 att, 146 comp, 53.3%, 1624 yds, 12 TDs, 7 INTs.
RECEIVING–Larry Centers, 99 for 766, 7.7 avg; Frank Sanders, 69 for 813, 111.8 avg.
SCORING–Kevin Butler, 59 pts on 17 PATs, 14 FGs; Larry Centers, 54 pts on 9 TDs.

PACKER-CARDINAL SERIES

Packers won 40, Cardinals won 21, tied 4; Points: Packers 1,119, Cardinals 839

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
46	Alexander, Brent	S
82	Anderson, Stevic	WR
63	Bankston, Michael	NT
75	Brown, Lomas	T
3	Butler, Kevin	K
80	Carter, Pat	TE
15	Case, Stoney	QB
37	Centers, Larry	RB
43	Darby, Matt	SS
62	Devlin, Mike	C
64	Dexter, James	T
67	Dishman, Chris	G
76	Drake, Jerry	DE
65	Dye, Ernest	T
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR
92	England, Eric	DE
10	Feagles, Jeff	P
84	Gedney, Chris	TE
54	Graham, Aaron	C
11	Graham, Kent	QB
58	Hill, Eric	LB
29	Howard, Ty	CB
56	Irving, Terry	LB
32	Johnson, LeShon	RB
66	Jonnassen, Eric	T
73	Joyce, Matt	G
59	Joyner, Seth	LB
22	Knight, Tom	CB
42	Lassiter, Kwamie	S
52	Leasy, Wesley	LB
44	McCleskey, J.J.	CB
55	McDonald, Devon	LB
30	McElroy, Leeeland	RB
57	McKinnon, Ronald	LB
89	McWilliams, Johnny	TE
95	Miller, Jamir	LB
85	Moore, Rob	WR
96	Ottis, Brad	DT
27	Paul, Tito	CB
16	Plummer, Jake	QB
60	Redmon, Anthony	G
79	Rice, Simeon	DE
81	Sanders, Frank	WR
70	Scott, Lance	C
74	Selby, Rob	G
45	Smith, Cedric	FB
98	Swann, Eric	DT
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB
94	Wilson, Bernard	DT
68	Wolf, Joe	G

1996 RESULTS

(7-9)

13	at Indianapolis	20
10	MIAMI	38
0	at New England	31
28	at New Orleans	14
31	ST LOUIS (ot)	28
3	at Dallas	17
13	TAMPA BAY	9
21	NY JETS	31
8	at NY Giants	16
37	at Washington (ot)	34
31	NY GIANTS	23
36	PHILADELPHIA	30
17	at Minnesota	41
6	DALLAS	10
27	WASHINGTON	26
19	at Philadelphia	29
300		397

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Cincinnati
Sep 7	DALLAS
Sep 14	at Washington
Sep 21	Bye
Sep 28	at Tampa Bay
Oct 5	MINNESOTA
Oct 12	NY GIANTS
Oct 19	at Philadelphia
Oct 26	HOUSTON
Nov 2	PHILADELPHIA
Nov 9	at Dallas
Nov 16	at NY Giants
Nov 23	at Baltimore
Nov 30	PITTSBURGH
Dec 7	WASHINGTON
Dec 14	at New Orleans
Dec 21	ATLANTA

New York Giants

STAFF

Head Coach: Jim Fassel. Assistants: Dave Brazil, Rod Dowhower, John Dunn, John Fox, Mike Gillhamer, Mike Haluchak, Milt Jackson, Johnnie Lynn, Larry Mac Duff, Denny Marcin, John Matsko, Dick Reihbein, Jim Skipper, Craig Stoddard. Home Field: Giants Stadium, Capacity 78,184; Colors: Blue, Red, White; Address: Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ 07073.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Rodney Hampton, 254 for 827 yds, 3.3 avg; Tyrone Wheatly, 112 for 400 yds, 3.6 avg.
PASSING–Dave Brown, 398 att, 214 comp, 53.8%, 2412 yds, 12 TDs, 20 INTs.
RECEIVING–Chris Calloway, 53 for 739 yds, 13.9 avg; Thomas Lewis, 53 for 694 yds, 13.1 avg.
SCORING–Brad Daluiso, 94 pts on 22 PATs, 24 FGs; Chris Calloway, 24 pts on 4 TDs.

PACKER-GIANT SERIES

Packers won 26, Giants won 21, tied 2; Points: Packers 815, Giants 789

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
93	Agnew, Ray	DT
86	Alexander, Kevin	WR
98	Armstead, Jessie	LB
21	Barber, Tiki	RB
78	Bishop, Greg	T
77	Bradzke, Chad	DE
17	Brown, David	QB
55	Buckley, Marcus	LB
80	Calloway, Chris	WR
87	Cross, Howard	TE
3	Daluiso, Brad	K
62	Davis, Scott	G
24	Douglass, Maurice	S
96	Duff, Jamal	DE
43	Ellsworth, Percy	S
52	Gaylon, Scott	LB
74	Gragg, Scott	T
41	Hamilton, Conrad	CB
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB
97	Harris, Robert	DE
88	Hilliard, Ike	WR
79	Holsey, Bernard	DT
94	Jones, Cedric	DE
13	Kanell, Danny	QB
68	Kline, Alan	T
81	Lewis, Thomas	WR
9	Maynard, Brad	P
57	Miller, Corey	LB
72	Oben, Roman	T
84	Pierce, Aaron	TE
23	Randolph, Thomas	CB
66	Reynolds, Jerry	T
83	Saxton, Brian	TE
67	Schreiber, Adam	C
31	Sehorn, Jason	CB
61	Smith, Lance	G
22	Sparks, Phillippi	CB
65	Stone, Ron	G
92	Strahan, Michael	DE
54	Talley, Ben	LB
89	Toomer, Amani	WR
30	Way, Charles	FB
28	Wheatley, Tyrone	RB
8	White, Stan	QB
90	Widmer, Corey	LB
59	Williams, Brian	C/G
29	Wooten, Tito	S
47	Young, Rodney	S
73	Zatechka, Rob	G

1996 RESULTS

(6-10)

20	BUFFALO (ot)	23
0	at Dallas	27
10	WASHINGTON	31
13	at NY Jets	6
15	MINNESOTA	10
10	PHILADELPHIA	19
21	at Washington	31
35	at Detroit	7
16	ARIZONA	8
17	at Carolina	27
23	at Arizona	31
20	DALLAS	6
0	at Philadelphia	24
17	at Miami	7
3	NEW ORLEANS	17
22	NEW ENGLAND	23
242		297

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	PHILADELPHIA
Sep 7	at Jacksonville
Sep 14	BALTIMORE
Sep 21	at St. Louis
Sep 28	NEW ORLEANS
Oct 5	DALLAS
Oct 12	at Arizona
Oct 19	at Detroit
Oct 26	CINCINNATI
Nov 2	Bye
Nov 9	at Houston
Nov 16	ARIZONA
Nov 23	at Washington
Nov 30	TAMPA BAY
Dec 7	at Philadelphia
Dec 13	WASHINGTON
Dec 21	at Dallas

Dallas Cowboys

STAFF

Head Coach: Barry Switzer. Assistants: Hubbard Alexander, Joe Avezzano, Jim Bates, Craig Boller, Joe Brodsky, Dave Campo, Robert Ford, Tommy Hart, Steve Hoffman, Hudson Houck, Joe Juraszek, Jack Reilly, Ernie Zampese, Mike Zimmer. Home Field: Texas Stadium, Capacity 65,812; Colors: Royal Blue, Metallic Silver, White; Address: Cowboy Center, One Cowboys Parkway, Irving, TX 75063.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Emmitt Smith, 327 for 1204 yds, 3.7 avg; Sherm. Williams, 69 for 269 yds, 3.9 avg.
PASSING–Troy Aikman, 465 att, 296 comp, 63.7%, 3126 yds, 12 TDs, 13 INTs.
RECEIVING–Michael Irvin, 64 for 962 yds, 15.0 avg; Eric Bjornson, 48 for 388 yds, 8.2 avg.
SCORING–Chris Boniol, 120 pts on 24 PATs, 32 FGs; Emmitt Smith, 90 pts on 15 TDs.

PACKER-COWBOY SERIES

Packers won 10, Cowboys won 13, tied 0; Points: Packers 469, Cowboys 541

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
8	Aikman, Troy	QB
73	Allen, Larry	G
91	Benson, Darren	DT
86	Bjornson, Eric	TE
29	Brice, Alundis	CB
13	Calicchio, Lonny	P
57	Campos, Alan	LB
96	Carver, Shante	DE
75	Casillas, Tony	DT
52	Coakley, Dexter	LB
3	Cunningham, Richie	K
87	Davis, Billy	WR
63	Flannery, John	G
17	Garrett, Jason	QB
56	Godfry, Randall	LB
94	Haley, Charles	DE
64	Hannah, Shane	G
24	Harper, Roger	S
69	Hegamin, George	T
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G/C
95	Hennings, Chad	DE
88	Irvin, Michael	WR
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB
89	Lafleur, David	TE
31	Marion, Brock	S
83	Martin, Kelvin	WR
99	McCormicj, Hurvin	DE
82	Miller, Anthoney	WR
61	Newton, Nate	G
84	Novacek, Jay	TE
97	Pittman, Kavika	DE
21	Sanders, Deion	CB
77	Scifres, Steve	G/T
50	Shiver, Clay	C
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB
26	Smith, Kevin	CB
55	Strickland, Fred	LB
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB
71	Tuinei, Mark	T
93	Ulufale, Mike	DT
34	Walker, Herschel	RB
83	Watkins, Kendall	TE
42	Williams, Charlie	S
79	Williams, Erik	T
85	Williams, Kelvin	WR
20	Williams, Sherman	RB
80	Williams, Stepfret	WR
11	Wilson, Wade	QB
28	Woodson, Darren	S

1996 RESULTS

(10-6)

6	at Chicago	22
27	NY GIANTS	0
24	INDIANAPOLIS	25
7	at Buffalo	10
23	at Philadelphia	19
17	ARIZONA	3
32	ATLANTA	28
29	at Miami	10
21	PHILADELPHIA	31
20	at San Francisco (ot)	17
21	**GREEN BAY**	6
6	at NY Giants	20
21	WASHINGTON	10
10	at Arizona	6
12	NEW ENGLAND	6
10	at Washington	37
286		250

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Pittsburgh
Sep 7	at Arizona
Sep 15	PHILADELPHIA
Sep 21	Bye
Sep 28	CHICAGO
Oct 5	at NY Giants
Oct 13	at Washington
Oct 19	JACKSONVILLE
Oct 26	at Philadelphia
Nov 2	at San Francisco
Nov 9	ARIZONA
Nov 16	WASHINGTON
Nov 23	at **Green Bay**
Nov 27	HOUSTON
Dec 8	CAROLINA
Dec 14	at Cincinnati
Dec 21	NY GIANTS

Philadelphia Eagles

STAFF

Head Coach: Ray Rhodes. Assistants: Bill Callahan, Gerald Carr, Juan Castillo, Jon Gruden, Chuck Knox, Jr., Sean Payton, David Shaw, Danny Smith, Emmitt Thomas, Mike Trgovac, Joe Vitt, Joe Wessel, Ted Williams, Mike Wolf. Home Field: Veterans Stadium, Capacity 645,352; Colors: Midnight Green, White, Silver; Address: Veterans Stadium, 3501 S. Broad Street & Pattison Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Ricky Watters, 353 for 1411 yds, 4.0 avg; Charlie Garner, 66 for 346 yds, 5.2 avg.
PASSING–Ty Detmer, 401 att, 238 comp, 59.4%, 2911 yds, 15 TDs, 13 INTs.
RECEIVING–Irving Fryer, 88 for 1195 yds, 12.2 avg; Chris Jones, 70 for 859 yds, 12.3 avg.
SCORING–Gary Anderson, 115 pts on 40 PATs, 25 FGs; Ricky Watters, 78 pts on 13 TDs.

PACKER-EAGLE SERIES

Packers won 20, Eagles won 9, tied 0; Points: Packers 614, Eagles 440

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
62	Beckles, Ian	G
69	Boatswain, Harry	T
18	Boniol, Chris	K
25	Boykin, Deral	SS
76	Brooks, Barrett	T
77	Cooper, Richard	T
85	Copeland, Russell	WR
57	Darling, James	LB
20	Dawkins, Brian	FS
14	Detmer, Ty	QB
75	Drake, Troy	T
87	Dunn, Jason	TE
61	Everitt, Steve	C
55	Farmer, Ray	LB
80	Fryer, Irving	WR
22	Fuller, James	FS
30	Garner, Charlie	RB
97	Hall, Rhett	DT
91	Harmon, Andy	DE
90	Harris, Jon	DE
7	Hoying, Bobby	QB
4	Hutton, Tom	P
79	Jefferson, Greg	DE
88	Johnson, Jamie	TE
82	Jones, Chris	WR
59	Mamula, Mike	DE
58	Marshall, Whit	LB
71	Mayberry, Jermane	T
65	Miller, Bubba	C
72	Panos, Joe	G/C
9	Peete, Rodney	QB
28	Robinson, Damien	S
98	Samson, Michael	DT
89	Singleton, Nate	WR
56	Smith, Darrin	LB
84	Soloman, Freddie	WR
41	Staley, Duce	RB
24	Sutton, Eric	CB
21	Taylor, Bobby	CB
78	Thomas, Hollis	DT
51	Thomas, William	LB
83	Timpson, Michael	WR
34	Turner, Kevin	FB
23	Vincent, Troy	CB
32	Watters, Ricky	RB
31	Witherspoon, Derrick	RB
50	Willis, James	LB
52	Wright, Sylvester	LB
72	Zandofsky, Mike	G
36	Zordich, Michael	S

1996 RESULTS

(10-6)

17	at Washington	14
13	at **Green Bay**	39
24	DETROIT	17
33	at Atlanta	18
19	DALLAS	23
19	at NY Giants	10
35	MIAMI	28
20	CAROLINA	9
31	at Dallas	21
17	BUFFALO	24
21	WASHINGTON	26
30	at Arizona	36
24	NY GIANTS	0
10	at Indianapolis	37
21	at NY Jets	20
29	ARIZONA	19
363		341

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at NY Giants
Sep 7	**GREEN BAY**
Sep 15	at Dallas
Sep 21	Bye
Sep 28	at Minnesota
Oct 5	WASHINGTON
Oct 12	at Jacksonville
Oct 19	ARIZONA
Oct 26	DALLAS
Nov 2	at Arizona
Nov 10	SAN FRANCISCO
Nov 16	at Baltimore
Nov 23	PITTSBURGH
Nov 30	CINCINNATI
Dec 7	NY GIANTS
Dec 14	at Atlanta
Dec 21	at Washington

Washington Redskins

STAFF

Head Coach: Norv Turner. Assistants: Jason Arapoff, Russ Grimm, Tom Hayes, Bobby Jackson, Earl Leggett, Dale Lindsey, Mike Martz, LeCharle McDaniel, Mike Nolan, Terry Robiskie, Pete Rodriguez, Dan Riley. Home Field: Robert F. Kennedy Stadium, Capacity 56,454; Colors: Burgundy, Gold; Address: Redskin Park, P.O. Box 17247, Washington, DC 20041.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Terry Allen, 347 for 1353 yds, 3.9 avg; Brian Mitchell, 39 for 193 yds, 4.9 avg.
PASSING–Gus Frerotte, 470 att, 270 comp, 57.4%, 3453 yds, 12 TDs, 11 INTs.
RECEIVING–Henry Ellard, 52 for 1014 yds, 19.5 avg; Jamie Asher, 42 for 481 yds, 11.5 avg.
SCORING–Terry Allen, 126 pts on 21 TDs; Scott Blanton, 118 pts on 40 PATs, 26 FGs.

PACKER-REDSKIN SERIES

Packers won 14, Redskins won 13, tied 1. Points: Packers 483, Redskins 456

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
58	Alexander, Patrise	LB
21	Allen, Terry	RB
84	Asher, Jamie	TE
73	Ashmore, Darryl	T
23	Barnes, Tonur	CB
61	Batiste, Michael	G
36	Bell, William	FB
16	Blanton, Scott	K
93	Boutte, Marc	DT
47	Bowie, Larry	FB
75	Dahl, Bob	G
48	Davis, Stephen	RB
37	Campbell, Jesse	S
28	Dishman, Chris	CB
85	Ellard, Henry	WR
35	Evans, Lamont	S
12	Frerotte, Gus	QB
95	Gaines, William	DT
89	Galbraith, Scott	TE
94	Gilbert, Sean	DT
28	Green, Darrell	CB
10	Green, Trent	QB
81	Harper, Alvin	WR
57	Harvey, Ken	LB
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB
88	Jenkins, James	TE
69	Johnson, Andre	T
77	Johnson, Tre	G
90	Lang, Kenard	DE
78	Kuehl, Ryan	DT
64	Matich, Trevor	C
94	Mims, Chris	DE
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB
92	Nottage, Dexter	DE
19	Olive, Bobby	WR
96	Owens, Rich	DE
68	Patton, Joe	G
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB
31	Pounds, Darryl	CB
67	Pourdanesh, Shar	T
52	Raymer, Cory	C
24	Richard, Stanley	FS
59	Sedoris, Chris	C
86	Shephard, Leslie	WR
99	Stephens, Rod	LB
1	Turk, Matt	P
29	Turner, Scott	CB
55	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C
45	Walker, Brian	S
82	Westbrook, Michael	WR

1996 RESULTS

(9-7)

14	PHILADELPHIA	17
10	CHICAGO	3
31	at NY Giants	10
17	at St Louis	10
31	NY JETS	16
27	at New England	22
31	NY GIANTS	21
31	INDIANAPOLIS	16
13	at Buffalo	38
34	ARIZONA (ot)	37
26	at Philadelphia	21
16	SAN FRANCISCO (ot)	19
10	at Dallas	21
10	at Tampa Bay	24
26	at Arizona	27
37	DALLAS	10
364		312

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Carolina
Sep 7	at Pittsburgh
Sep 14	ARIZONA
Sep 21	Bye
Sep 28	JACKSONVILLE
Oct 5	at Philadelphia
Oct 13	DALLAS
Oct 19	at Houston
Oct 26	BALTIMORE
Nov 2	at Chicago
Nov 9	DETROIT
Nov 16	at Dallas
Nov 23	NY GIANTS
Nov 30	ST. LOUIS
Dec 7	at Arizona
Dec 13	at N.Y. Giants
Dec 21	PHILADELPHIA

Carolina Panthers

STAFF

Head Coach: Dom Capers. Assistants: Don Breaux, George Catavolos, Billy Davis, Vic Fangio, Ted Gill, Chick Harris, Jim McNally, Chip Morton, Joe Pendry, Brad Seely, Kevin Steele, Richard Williamson. Home Field: Ericsson Stadium, Capacity 73,240; Colors: Black, Panther Blue and Silver. Address: 800 South Mint Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-1502.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Derrick Moore, 195 for 740 yds, 3.8 avg; Howard Griffith, 65 for 197 yds, 3.0 avg.
PASSING–Kerry Collins, 433 att, 214 comp, 49.4%, 2717 yds, 14 TDs, 19 INTs.
RECEIVING–Mark Carrier, 66 for 1002 yds, 15.2 avg; Willie Green, 47 for 88.2 yds, 18.8 avg.
SCORING–John Kasay, 105 pts on 27 PATs, 26 FGs; Willie Green, 36 pts on 6 TDs.

PACKER-PANTHER SERIES

Packers won 1, Panthers won 0, tied 0. Points: Packers 30, Panthers 13

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
54	Bailey, Carilon	LB
56	Baker, Myron	LB
11	Barker, Jay	QB
56	Barrow, Michael	LB
82	Bates, Michael	WR
7	Beurerlein, Steve	QB
21	Biakabutuka, Tim	RB
50	Bickett, Duane	LB
78	Brockermeyer, Blake	T
33	By'not'e, Butler	CB
66	Campbell, Mathew	G
83	Carrier, Mark	WR
12	Collins, Kerry	QB
41	Cook, Toi	CB
37	Cota, Chad	S
25	Davis, Eric	CB
52	Elliott, Matt	G
93	Fox, Mike	DE
65	Garcia Frank	C
91	Greene, Kevin	LB
43	Greene, Scott	RB
67	Hayes, Brandon	G
81	Ishmail, Raghib	WR
23	Johnson, Anthony	RB
4	Kasay, John	K
96	King, Shawn	DE
71	Kragen, Greg	NT
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB
29	Lofton, Steve	CB
26	McDaniel, Emmanuel	CB
69	Miller, Les	DE
89	Mills, Ernie	WR
51	Mills, Sam	LB
30	Minter, Mike	S
20	Oliver, Winslow	RB
27	Pieri, Damon	S
38	Poole, Tyrone	QB
88	Rasby, Walter	TE
45	Reed, Michael	CB
63	Rodenhauser, Mark	C
58	Royal, Andre	LB
97	Seals, Ray	DE
75	Skrepenak, Greg	T
31	Smith, Rod	CB
3	Stark, Rohn	P
80	Stone, Dwight	WR
40	Terrell, Pat	S
85	Walls, Wesley	TE
53	Whitley, Curtis	C
98	Williams Gerald	DE

1996 RESULTS

(12-4)

29	ATLANTA	6
22	at New Orleans	20
23	SAN FRANCISCO	7
14	at Jacksonville	24
12	at Minnesota	14
45	ST. LOUIS	13
19	NEW ORLEANS	7
9	at Philadelphia	20
17	at Atlanta	20
27	NY GIANTS	17
20	at St. Louis	10
31	at Houston	6
24	TAMPA BAY	0
30	at San Francisco	24
27	BALTIMORE	16
18	PITTSBURGH	14
367		218

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	WASHINGTON
Sep 7	at Atlanta
Sep 14	at San Diego
Sep 21	KANSAS CITY
Sep 29	SAN FRANCISCO
Oct 5	Bye
Oct 12	at Minnesota
Oct 19	at New Orleans
Oct 26	ATLANTA
Nov 2	OAKLAND
Nov 9	at Denver
Nov 16	at San Francisco
Nov 23	at St. Louis
NOV 30	NEW ORLEANS
Dec 8	at Dallas
Dec 14	**GREEN BAY**
Dec 20	ST. LOUIS

Atlanta Falcons

STAFF

Head Coach: Dan Reeves. Assistants: Don Blackmon, Rich Brooks, Jack Burns, James Daniel, Joe De Camillis, Tim Jorgensen, Bill Kollar, Pete Mangurian, Ron Meeks, Al Miller, Harold Richardson, Art Shell, George Sefcik, Rennie Simmons. Home Field: Georgia Dome, Capacity 70,500; Colors: Black, Red, Silver, White; Address: One Falcon Place, Suwanee, GA 30174.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Jamal Anderson, 232 for 1055 yds, 4.5 avg; C. Heyward, 72 for 321 yds, 4.5 avg.
PASSING–Bobby Hebert, 488 att, 294 comp, 60.2%, 3152 yds, 22 TDs, 25 INTs.
RECEIVING–Bert Emanuel, 75 for 921 yds, 12.3 avg; Terrance Mathis, 69 for 771 yds, 11.2 avg.
SCORING–Morten Andersen, 97 pts on 31 PATs, 22 FGs; T. Mathis, 44 pts on 7 TDs, 1 2-pt.

PACKER-FALCON SERIES

Packers won 11, Falcons 9, tied 0. Points: Packers 476, Falcons 372

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
5	Andersen, Morten	K
32	Anderson, Jamal	RB
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE
30	Baldwin, Robert	FB
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB
43	Bolden, Juran	CB
20	Booker, Michael	CB
42	Boyd, Sean	SS
27	Bradford, Ronnie	CB
51	Brandon, David	LB
73	Brandon, Ethan	T
73	Brooks, Ethan	T
75	Brown, Shannon	DT
80	Brown, Tyrone	WR
34	Buchanan, Ray	CB
91	Burrough, John	DT
25	Bush, Devin	FS
12	Chandler, Chris	QB
44	Christian, Bob	FB
51	Croel, Mike	LB
76	Davis, Antone	T
99	Dronet, Shane	DE
87	Emmanuel, Bert	WR
65	Fortin, Roman	C
98	Hall, Travis	DT
54	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB
33	Huntley, Richard	RB
68	Loneker, Keith	G
81	Mathis, Terrance	WR
28	McGill, Lenny	CB
93	Owens, Dan	DL
64	Pahukoa, Jeff	G
26	Phillips, Anthony	CB
85	Preston, Roell	WR
52	Sauer, Craig	LB
90	Smith, Chuck	DE
62	Smith, Darius	C
46	Smith, Ed	TE
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P
59	Styles, Lorenzo	LB
61	Tobeck, Robbie	G
11	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB
83	West, Ed	TE
35	White, William	SS
70	Whitfield, Bob	T
69	Williams, Gene	G
77	Willig, Matt	T
48	Wimberly, Marcus	FS
72	Zandofsky, Mike	C/G

1996 RESULTS

(3-13)

6	at Carolina	29
17	MINNESOTA	23
18	PHILADELPHIA	33
17	at San Francisco	29
24	at Detroit	28
13	HOUSTON	23
28	at Dallas	32
17	PITTSBURGH	20
20	CAROLINA	17
16	at St Louis	59
17	NEW ORLEANS	15
31	at Cincinnati	41
10	SAN FRANCISCO	34
31	at New Orleans	15
27	ST LOUIS	34
17	at Jacksonville	19
309		461

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Detroit
Sep 7	CAROLINA
Sep 14	OAKLAND
Sep 21	at San Francisco
Sep 28	DENVER
Oct 5	Bye
Oct 12	at New Orleans
Oct 19	SAN FRANCISCO
Oct 26	at Carolina
Nov 2	ST. LOUIS
Nov 9	TAMPA BAY
Nov 16	at St. Louis
Nov 23	NEW ORLEANS
Nov 30	at Seattle
Dec 7	at San Diego
Dec 14	PHILADELPHIA
Dec 21	at Arizona

New Orleans Saints

STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Ditka. Assistants: Danny Abramowicz, Bobby April, Tom Clements, Walt Corey, Jack Del Rio, Judd Garrett, Harold Jackson, Dan Neal, Tom Moore, John Pagano, Dick Stanfel, Rick Venturi, Mike Woicik, Zaven Yaralian. Home Field: Louisiana Superdome, Capacity 69,420; Colors: Old Gold, Black, White; Address: 5800 Airline Highway, Metairie, LA 70003.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Mario Bates 164 for 584 yds, 3.6 avg; Ray Zellars, 120 for 475 yds, 4.0 avg.
PASSING–Jim Everett, 464 att, 267 comp, 57.5%, 2797 yds, 12 TDs, 16 INTs.
RECEIVING–Terrance Small, 50 for 558 yds, 11.2 avg; M. Haynes, 44 for 786 yds, 17.9 avg.
SCORING–Doug Brien, 81 pts on 18 PATs, 21 FGs; Michael Haynes, 26 pts on 4 TDs,1 2-pt.

PACKER-SAINT SERIES

Packers won 13, Saints won 4, tied 0. Points: Packers 459, Saints 3334

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
69	Ackerman, Tom	C/G
21	Allen, Eric	CB
28	Bates, Mario	RB
10	Brien, Doug	K
99	Broughton, Willie	DT
24	Brown, Derek	RB
37	Cherry, Je'pd	S
53	Davis, Don	LB
28	Davis, Troy	RB
87	DeRamus, Lee	WR
14	Edge, Shayne	P
55	Fields, Mark	LB
57	Fontenot, Jerry	C
62	Gammon, Kendall	C
85	Green, Paul	TE
18	Guess, Terry	WR
52	Harvey, Richard	LB
88	Hastings, Andre	WR
89	Hill, Randal	WR
76	Hills, Keno	T
32	Hunter, Earnest	RB
94	Johnson, Joe	DE
86	Johnson, Tony	TE
58	Jones, Brian	LB
74	Jones, Clarence	T
33	Kelly, Rob	S
61	King, Ed	G
93	Martin, Wayne	DE
67	McCollum, Andy	C/G
92	Mickell, Darren	DE
25	Molden, Alex	CB
65	Naeola, Chris	G
30	Newman, Anthony	S
13	Nussmeier, Doug	QB
77	Roaf, William	T
95	Robbins, Austin	DT
5	Shuler, Heath	QB
91	Smith, Brady	DE
82	Smith, Irv	TE
71	Stokes, Fred	DE
41	Strong, William	CB
90	Tomich, Jared	DE
54	Tubbs, Winfred	LB
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	DE
66	Verstegen, Mike	T
22	Washington, Mickey	CB
23	Whittle, Ricky	RB
63	Willis, Donald	G/C
7	Wuerffel, Danny	QB
34	Zellars, Ray	FB

1996 RESULTS

(3-13)

11	at San Francisco	27
20	CAROLINA	22
15	at Cincinnati	30
14	ARIZONA	28
10	at Baltimore	17
17	JACKSONVILLE	13
27	CHICAGO	24
7	at Carolina	19
17	SAN FRANCISCO	24
14	HOUSTON	31
15	at Atlanta	17
7	at Tampa Bay	13
10	ST. LOUIS	26
15	ATLANTA	31
17	at NY Giants	3
13	at St. Louis	14
229		339

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at St. Louis
Sep 7	SAN DIEGO
Sep 14	at San Francisco
Sep 21	DETROIT
Sep 28	at NY Giants
Oct 5	at Chicago
Oct 12	ATLANTA
Oct 19	CAROLINA
Oct 26	SAN FRANCISCO
Nov 2	Bye
Nov 9	at Oakland
Nov 16	SEATTLE
Nov 23	at Atlanta
Nov 30	at Carolina
Dec 7	ST. LOUIS
Dec 14	ARIZONA
Dec 21	at Kansas City

St. Louis Rams

STAFF

Head Coach: Dick Vermeil. Assistants: Nick Aliotti, Steve Brown, John Bunting, Bud Carson, Chris Clausen, Dick Coury, Frank Gansz, Peter Giunta, Jim Hanifan, Carl Hairston, Wilbert Montgomery, John Ramsdell, Jerry Rhome, George Warhop, Mike White. Home Field: Trans World Dome, Capacity 66,000; Colors: Royal Blue, Gold, White; Address: One Rams Way, St. Louis, MO 63045.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Lawrence Phillips, 193 for 632 yds, 3.3 avg; Harold Green, 127 for 523 yds, 4.1 avg.
PASSING–Tony Banks, 368 att, 192 comp, 52.2%, 2544 yds, 15 TDs, 15 INTs.
RECEIVING–Isaac Bruce, 84 for 1338 yds, 15.9 avg; Eddie Kennison, 54 for 924 yds, 17.1 avg.
SCORING–Chip Lohmiller 91 pts on 28 PATs, 21 FGs; Eddie Kennison 66 pts on 11 TDs.

PACKER-RAM SERIES

Packers won 40, Rams won 44, tied 2; Points: Packers 1,905, Rams 1,973

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
12	Banks, Tony	QB
71	Belin, Chuck	G
61	Brostek, Bern	C
80	Bruce, Isaac	WR
93	Carter, Kevin	DE
81	Clay, Heyward	TE
56	Clemons, Charlie	LB
84	Conwell, Ernie	TE
81	Crawford, Keith	WR
75	Farr, D'Marco	DT
70	Gandy, Wayne	T
54	Gaskins, Percell	LB
66	Gerak, John	G
99	Harris, James	DE
34	Heyward, Craig	RB
57	Homco, Thomas	LB
68	James, Jesse	T
51	Jenkins, Carlos	LB
52	Jones, Mike	LB
55	Jones, Robert	LB
88	Kennison, Eddie	WR
65	Kirksey, Jon	DT
86	Laing, Aaron	TE
41	Lyght, Todd	CB
35	Lyle, Keith	S
10	Martin, Jamie	QB
23	McBurrows, Gerald	S
24	McCleon, Dexter	CB
73	Miller, Fred	T
79	Milner, Billy	T
44	Moore, Ron	RB
91	O'Neil, Leslie	DE
97	Osborn, Chuck	DT
76	Pace, Orlando	T
27	Parker, Anthoney	CB
64	Perry, Gerald	G
58	Phifer, Roman	LB
21	Phillips, Lawrence	RB
11	Rypien, Mark	QB
94	Robinson, Jeff	DE
83	Small, Torrence	WR
18	Thomas, J.T.	WR
38	Walker, Marquis	CB
67	White, Dwayne	G
72	Wiegert, Zach	G
19	Williams, Billy	WR
96	Williams, Jay	DE
14	Wilkins, Jeff	K
32	Wright, Toby	S
90	Zgonina, Jeff	DT

1996 RESULTS

(6-10)

26	CINCINNATI	16
0	at San Francisco	34
10	WASHINGTON	17
28	at Arizona	31
11	SAN FRANCISCO	28
13	at Carolina	45
17	JACKSONVILLE	14
31	at Baltimore (ot)	37
6	at Pittsburgh	42
59	ATLANTA	16
10	CAROLINA	20
9	**GREEN BAY**	24
26	at New Orleans	10
9	at Chicago	35
34	at Atlanta	27
14	NEW ORLEANS	13
303		409

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	NEW ORLEANS
Sep 7	SAN FRANCISCO
Sep 14	at Denver
Sep 21	NY GIANTS
Sep 28	at Oakland
Oct 5	Bye
Oct 12	at San Francisco
Oct 19	SEATTLE
Oct 26	KANSAS CITY
Nov 2	at Atlanta
Nov 9	at **Green Bay**
Nov 16	ATLANTA
Nov 23	CAROLINA
Nov 30	at Washington
Dec 7	at New Orleans
Dec 14	CHICAGO
Dec 20	at Carolina

Buffalo Bills

STAFF

Head Coach: Marv Levy. Assistants: Tom Bresnahan, Ted Cottrell, Bruce DeHaven, Dan Henning, Charlie Joiner, Rusty Jones, Don Lawrence, Chuck Lester, Wade Phillips, Elijah Pitts, Dick Roach, Dan Sekanovich, Jim Shofner. Home Field: Rich Stadium, Capacity 80,024; Colors: Red, Royal Blue, White; Address: One Bills Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Thurman Thomas, 281 for 1033 yds, 3.7 avg; D. Holmes, 189 for 571 yds, 3.0 avg.
PASSING–Jim Kelly, 379 att, 222 comp, 58.6%, 2810 yds, 14 TDs, 19 INTs.
RECEIVING–Andre Reed, 66 for 1036 yds, 15.7 avg; Quinn Early, 50 for 798 yds, 16.0 avg.
SCORING–Steve Christie, 105 pts on 33 PATs, 24 FGs; Thurman Thomas, 48 pts on 8 TDs.

PACKER-BILL SERIES

Bills won 5, Packers won 1, tied 0; Points: Bills 158, Packers 96

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
81	Armour, Justin	WR
96	Brandenburg, Dan	LB
79	Brown, Reuben	G
22	Burris, Jeffrey	CB
2	Christie, Steve	K
86	Cline, Tony	TE
15	Collins, Todd	QB
87	Coons, Robert	TE
57	Covington, Damien	LB
88	Early, Quinn	WR
70	Fina, John	LB
90	Hansen, Phil	DE
8	Hobert, Billy Joe	QB
52	Holecek, John	LB
44	Holmes, Darick	RB
27	Irvin, Ken	CB
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE
84	Johnson, Lonnie	TE
20	Jones, Henry	S
46	Kerner, Marlon	CB
68	Lacina, Corbin	G
72	Louchiey, Corey	T
55	Maddox, Mark	LB
9	Mohr, Chris	P
98	Moran, Sean	DE
80	Moulds, Eric	WR
99	Northern, Gabe	DE
60	Ostroski, Jerry	G
74	Parker, Glenn	G
95	Paup, Bryce	LB
58	Perry, Marlo	LB
94	Pike, Mark	DE
91	Price, Shawn	NT
83	Reed, Andre	WR
59	Rodgers, Sam	LB
24	Schulz, Kurt	S
40	Smedley, Eric	S
26	Smith, Antowain	RB
78	Smith, Bruce	DE
28	Smith, Thomas	CB
54	Spielman, Chris	LB
23	Stevens, Matt	CB
89	Tasker, Steve	WR/KR
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB
33	Tindale, Tim	RB
10	Van Pelt, Alex	QB
92	Washington, Ted	NT
51	White, David	LB
75	Wilay, Marcellus	DE
61	Zeigler, Dusty	C/G

1996 RESULTS

(10-6)

22	at NY Giants (ot)	20
17	NEW ENGLAND	10
6	at Pittsburgh	24
10	DALLAS	7
16	INDIANAPOLIS (ot)	13
7	MIAMI	21
25	at NY Jets	22
25	at New England	28
28	WASHINGTON	13
24	at Philadelphia	17
31	CINCINNATI	17
35	NY JETS	10
10	at Indianapolis (ot)	13
18	at Seattle	26
14	at Miami	13
20	KANSAS CITY	9
319		266

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	MINNESOTA
Sep 7	at NY Jets
Sep 14	at Kansas City
Sep 21	INDIANAPOLIS
Sep 28	Bye
Oct 5	DETROIT
Oct 12	at New England
Oct 20	at Indianapolis
Oct 26	DENVER
Nov 2	MIAMI
Nov 9	NEW ENGLAND
Nov 17	at Miami
Nov 23	at Houston
Nov 30	NY JETS
Dec 7	at Chicago
Dec 14	JACKSONVILLE
Dec 20	at **Green Bay**

San Francisco 49ers

STAFF

Head Coach: Steve Mariucci. Assistants: Jerry Attaway, Michael Barnes, Dwaine Board, Jamie Hill, Larry Kirksey, Gregg Knapp, John Marshall, Bobb McKittrick, Bill McPherson, Jim Mora, Jr., Marty Mornhinweg, Patrick Morris, Tom Rathman, Richard Smith, George Stewart. Home Field: Candlestick Park, Capacity 61,891; Colors: Cardinal Red and 49er Gold; Address: 4949 Centennial Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95054.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Terry Kirby, 134 for 559 yds, 4.2 avg; Steve Young, 52 for 310 yds, 6.0 avg.
PASSING–Steve Young, 316 att, 214 comp, 67.7%, 2410 yds, 14 TDs, 6 INTs.
RECEIVING–Jerry Rice, 108 for 1254 yds, 11.6 avg; Terry Kirby, 52 for 439 yds, 8.4 avg.
SCORING–Jeff Wilkins, 130 pts on 40 PATs, 30 FGs; Jerry Rice, 54 pts on 9 TDs.

PACKER-49ER SERIES

49ers won 25, Packers won 24, tied 1; Points: 49ers 1,031, Packers 984

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
1	Anderson, Gary	K
92	Barker, Roy	DE
79	Barton, Harris	T
78	Brandon, Michael	DT
11	Brohm, Jeff	QB
65	Brown, Ray	G
90	Bryant, Junior	DT
28	Buckley, Curtis	S
88	Clark, Greg	TE
95	Coleman, Herb	DE
86	Cooper, Adrian	TE
67	Dalman, Chris	G/C
63	Deese, Derrick	G
56	Doleman, Chris	DE
22	Drakeford, Tyronne	CB
14	Drukenmiller, Jim	QB
44	Edwards, Marc	RB
40	Floyd, William	FB
66	Gogan, Kevin	G
59	Gordon, Steve	C
36	Hanks, Merton	CB
77	Hanshaw, Tim	G
20	Hearst, Garrison	RB
64	Ifeanyi, Israel	DE
84	Jones, Brent	TE
41	Kirby, Terry	RB
57	Kirk, Randy	LB
32	Levy, Chuck	KR/RB
46	McDonald, Tim	S
69	Milstead, Rod	G
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB
51	Norton, Jr., Ken	LB
81	Owens, Terrell	WR
50	Plummer, Gary	LB
75	Pollack, Frank	75
23	Pope, Marquez	CB
96	Price, Daryl	DE
80	Rice, Jerry	WR
30	Salmon, Mike	FS
76	Scrafford, Kirk	T
52	Schwantz, Jim	LB
27	Smith, Frankie	CB
83	Stokes, J.J	WR
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DE
3	Thompson, Tommy	P
89	Uwaezouke, Iheanyi	WR
38	Walker, Darnell	CB
54	Woodall, Lee	LB
97	Young, Bryant	DT
8	Young, Steve	QB

1996 RESULTS

(12-4)

27	NEW ORLEANS	11
34	ST. LOUIS	0
7	at Carolina	23
39	ATLANTA	17
28	at St. Louis	11
20	at **Green Bay** (ot)	23
28	CINCINNATI	21
10	at Houston	9
24	at New Orleans	17
17	DALLAS (ot)	20
38	BALTIMORE	20
19	at Washington (ot)	16
34	at Atlanta	10
24	CAROLINA	30
25	at Pittsburgh	15
24	DETROIT	14
398		257

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Tampa Bay
Sep 7	at St. Louis
Sep 14	NEW ORLEANS
Sep 21	ATLANTA
Sep 29	at Carolina
Oct 5	Bye
Oct 12	ST. LOUIS
Oct 19	at Atlanta
Oct 26	at New Orleans
Nov 2	DALLAS
Nov 10	at Philadelphia
Nov 16	CAROLINA
Nov 23	SAN DIEGO
Nov 30	at Kansas City
Dec 7	MINNESOTA
Dec 15	DENVER
Dec 21	at Seattle

Indianapolis Colts

STAFF

Head Coach: Lindy Infante. Assistants: Tom Batta, Greg Blache, Ron Blackledge, Chuck Bresnahan, Charlie Davis, Buddy Geis, Gene Huey, Jim Johnson, Hank Kuhlmann, Jay Robertson, Jimmy Robinson, Pat Thomas, Tom Zupancic. Home Field: RCA Dome, Capacity 60,273; Colors: Royal Blue, White; Address: P.O. Box 535000, Indianapolis, IN 46253.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Marshall Faulk, 198 for 587 yds, 3.0 avg; Lamont Warren, 67 for 230 yds, 3.4 avg.
PASSING–Jim Harbaugh, 405 att, 232 comp, 57.3%, 2630 yds, 13 TDs, 11 INTs.
RECEIVING–Marvin Harrison, 64 for 836 yds, 13.1 avg; M. Faulk, 56 for 428 yds, 7.6 avg.
SCORING–Cary Blanchard, 135 pts on 27 PATs, 26 FGs; Marvin Harrison, 48 on 8 TDs.

PACKER-COLT SERIES

Packers won 19, Colts won 18, tied 1; Points: Packers 779, Colts 806

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
51	Alberts, Trev	LB
50	Alexander, Wlijah	LB
75	Auzenne, Troy	T
80	Bailey, Aaron	WR
83	Banta, Bradford	TE
12	Bell, Kerwin	QB
29	Belser, Jason	S
56	Bennett, Tony	LB
14	Blanchard, Cary	K
25	Blackmon, Robert	SS
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB
32	Crockett, Zack	FB
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR
85	Dilger, Ken	TE
28	Faulk, Marshall	RB
99	Fontenot, Al	DE
17	Gardocki, Chris	P
78	Glenn, Tarik	T
59	Grant, Stephen	DT
26	Gray, Carlton	CB
30	Gray, Derwin	S
33	Groce, Clif	FB
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB
88	Harrison, Marvin	WR
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB
44	Heatherington, Chris	RB
62	Johnson, Ellis	DT
39	Jones, Richard	SS
11	Justin, Paul	QB
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay	C/G
65	Mahlum, Eric	G
79	Manderich, Tony	T
90	Martin, Steve	DT
23	Mathis, Dedric	CB
67	Mathews, Jason	T
61	McCoy, Tony	NT
40	McElroy, Ray	DB
73	Meadows, Adam	T
52	Morrison, Steve	LB
20	Neal, Leon	RB
81	Pollard, Marcus	TE
48	Slutzker, Scott	TE
86	Stablein, Brian	WR
10	Stock, Mark	WR
49	Tate, David	DB
71	Vickers, Kipp	G
21	Warren, Lamont	RB
36	Watts, Damon	DB
95	Whittington, Bernard	DE
64	Widell, Doug	G

1996 RESULTS

(9-7)

20	ARIZONA	13
21	at NY Jets	7
25	at Dallas	24
10	MIAMI	6
13	at Buffalo (ot)	16
26	BALTIMORE	21
9	NEW ENGLAND	27
16	at Washington	31
19	SAN DIEGO	26
13	at Miami	37
34	NY JETS	29
13	at New England	27
13	BUFFALO (ot)	10
37	PHILADELPHIA	10
24	at Kansas City	19
24	at Cincinnati	31
317		334

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Miami
Sep 7	NEW ENGLAND
Sep 14	SEATTLE
Sep 21	at Buffalo
Sep 28	Bye
Oct 5	NY JETS
Oct 12	at Pittsburgh
Oct 20	BUFFALO
Oct 26	at San Diego
Nov 2	TAMPA BAY
Nov 9	CINCINNATI
Nov 16	**GREEN BAY**
Nov 23	at Detroit
Nov 30	at New England
Dec 7	at NY Jets
Dec 14	MIAMI
Dec 21	at Minnesota

Miami Dolphins

STAFF

Head Coach: Jimmy Johnson. Assistants: Larry Beightol, Kippy Brown, Joel Collier, John Gamble, Cary Godette, George Hill, Pat Jones, Les Koenning, Bill Lewis, Rich McGeorge, Mel Phillips, Brad Roll, Larry Seiple, Gary Stevens, Mike Westhoff. Home Field: Joe Robbie Stadium, Capacity 74,916; Colors: Aqua, Orange; Address: 2269 N.W. 199th St., Miami, FL 33056.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–K. Abdul-Jabbar, 307 for 1116 yds, 3.6 avg; Irving Spikes, 87 for 316 yds, 3.6 avg.
PASSING–Dan Marino, 373 atts, 221 comp, 59.2%, 2795 yds, 17 TDs, 9 INTs.
RECEIVING–O.J. McDuffie, 74 for 918 yds, 12.4 avg; Fred Barnett, 36 for 562 yds, 15.6 avg.
SCORING–Joe Nedney, 89 pts on 35 PATs, 18 FGs; K. Abdul-Jabbar, 66 pts on 11 TDs.

PACKER-DOLPHIN SERIES

Dolphins won 8, Packers won 0, tied 0; Points: Dolphins 206, Packers 108

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
33	Abdul Jabbar, Karim	RB
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE
80	Barnett, Fred	WR
60	Bock, John	G
95	Bowens, Tim	DT
76	Brown, James	T
77	Buckey, Jeff	T
27	Buckley, Terrell	CB
75	Burton, Shane	DT
73	Daniels, Jerome	G
89	Dar Dar, Kirby	WR
86	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR
63	Dixon, Cal	C
84	Drayton, Troy	TE
7	Erickson, Craig	QB
92	Gardner, Daryl	DE
62	Gray, Chris	G/T
87	Green, Yatil	WR
98	Hand, Norman	T
25	Harris, Cory	S
31	Hill, Sean	CB
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB
47	Holmes, Clayton	CB
53	Izzo, Larry	LB
38	Jackson, Calvin	CB
88	Jordan, Charles	WR
17	Kidd, John	P
29	Madison, Sam	CB
13	Marino, Dan	QB
81	McDuffie, O.J.	WR
32	McPhail, Jerris	RB
6	Nedney, Joe	K
30	Parmalee, Bernie	RB
36	Pritchett, Stanley	FB
83	Reeves, Walter	TE
59	Rodgers, Derrick	LB
61	Ruddy, Tim	C
69	Sims, Keith	G
74	Smith, Brent	T
35	Spikes, Irving	RB
96	Stubbs, Daniel	DE
99	Taylor, Jason	DE
23	Teague, George	S
54	Thomas, Zach	LB
82	Wainright, Frank	TE
55	Ward, Ronnie	LB
78	Webb, Richmond	T
24	Wilson, Jerry	CB
20	Wilson, Robert	FB
22	Wooden, Shawn	S

1996 RESULTS

(8-8)

24	NEW ENGLAND	10
38	at Arizona	10
36	NY JETS	27
6	at Indianapolis	10
15	SEATTLE	22
21	at Buffalo	7
28	at Philadelphia	35
10	DALLAS	29
23	at New England	42
37	INDIANAPOLIS	13
23	at Houston	20
17	PITTSBURGH	24
7	at Oakland	17
7	NY GIANTS	17
16	BUFFALO	14
31	at NY Jets	26
339		325

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	INDIANAPOLIS
Sep 7	HOUSTON
Sep 14	at **Green Bay**
Sep 21	at Tampa Bay
Sep 28	Bye
Oct 5	KANSAS CITY
Oct 12	at NY Jets
Oct 19	at Baltimore
Oct 26	CHICAGO
Nov 2	at Buffalo
Nov 9	NY JETS
Nov 17	BUFFALO
Nov 23	at New England
Nov 30	at Oakland
Dec 7	DETROIT
Dec 14	at Indianapolis
Dec 22	NEW ENGLAND

New York Jets

STAFF

Head Coach: Bill Parcells. Assistants: Bill Belichick, Maurice Carthon, Romeo Crennel, Ron Erhardt, Al Groh, Todd Haley, Pat Hodgson, John Lott, Eric Mangini, Bill Muir, Mike Sweatman, Charlie Weis. Home Field: Giants Stadium, Capacity 77,803; Colors: Kelly Green, White; Address: 1000 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Adrian Murrell, 301 for 1249 yds, 4.1 avg; Richie Anderson, 47 for 150 yds, 3.2 avg.
PASSING–Frank Reich, 331 att, 175 comp, 52.9%, 2205 yds, 15 TDs, 16 INTs.
RECEIVING–Wayne Chrebet, 84 for 909 yds, 10.8 avg; K. Johnson, 63 for 844 yds, 13.4 avg.
SCORING–Nick Lowery, 77 pts on 26 PATs, 17 FGs; Keshawn Johnson, 50 pts on 8 TDs, 1-2pt.

PACKER-JET SERIES

Jets won 5, Packers won 2, tied 0; Points: Jets 130, Packers 97

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
20	Anderson, Richie	RB
84	Baxter, Fred	TE
88	Brady, Kyle	TE
26	Brown, Lance	CB
53	Cascadden, Chad	LB
80	Chrebet, Wayne	WR
28	Cobb, Reggie	RB
42	Coleman, Marcus	CB
83	Davis, Tyrone	TE
90	Dixon, Ronnie	DT
99	Douglas, Hugh	DE
93	Dubose, Demitrius	LB
62	Duffy, Roger	C
76	Elliott, Jumbo	T
58	Farrior, James	LB
4	Foley, Glenn	QB
64	Galbreath, Harry	G
31	Glenn, Aaron	CB
52	Gordon, Dwayne	LB
89	Graham, Jeff	WR
21	Green, Victor	SS
22	Greenwood, Carl	CB
92	Hamilton, Bobby	DE
11	Hansen, Brian	P
26	Henderson, Jerome	CB
55	Houston, Bobby	LB
65	Hudson, John	C/G
3	Johnson, Keshawn	WR
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB
54	Jones, Marvin	LB
57	Lewis, Mo	LB
93	Logan, Ernie	DE
95	Lyle, Rick	DE
75	Malamala, Siupeli	T
24	Mickens, Ray	CB
29	Murrell, Adrian	RB
22	Neal, Lorenzo	RB
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB
70	O'Dwyer, Matt	G
10	Paci, John	QB
68	Palelei, Lonnie	G
5	Silvestri, Don	K
45	Smith, Otis	CB
94	Terry, Rick	DT
86	Van Dyke, Alex	WR
89	Ward, Dedic	WR
97	Washington, Marv	DE
96	White, Reggie	DT
60	Wiegmann, Casey	C
73	Williams, David	T

1996 RESULTS

(1-15)

6	at Denver	31
7	INDIANAPOLIS	21
27	at Miami	36
6	NY GIANTS	13
16	at Washington	31
13	OAKLAND	34
17	at Jacksonville	21
22	BUFFALO	25
31	at Arizona	21
27	NEW ENGLAND	31
29	at Indianapolis	34
10	at Buffalo	35
10	HOUSTON	35
10	at New England	34
20	PHILADELPHIA	21
28	MIAMI	31
279		454

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Seattle
Sep 7	BUFFALO
Sep 14	at New England
Sep 21	OAKLAND
Sep 28	at Cincinnati
Oct 5	at Indianapolis
Oct 12	MIAMI
Oct 19	NEW ENGLAND
Oct 26	Bye
Nov 2	BALTIMORE
Nov 9	at Miami
Nov 16	at Chicago
Nov 23	MINNESOTA
Nov 30	at Buffalo
Dec 7	INDIANAPOLIS
Dec 14	TAMPA BAY
Dec 21	at Detroit

New England Patriots

STAFF

Head Coach: Pete Carroll. Assistants: Paul Boudreau, Jeff Davidson, Ray Hamilton, Larry Kennan, Rod Lynn, Johnny Parker, Andre Patterson, Bo Pelini, Dante Scarnecchia, Steve Sidwell, Carl Smith, Steve Walters, Kirby Wilson. Home Field: Foxboro Stadium, Capacity 60,292; Colors: Blue, Red, Silver; Address: Route One, Foxboro, MA 02035.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Curtis Martin, 316 for 1152 yds, 3.6 avg; Dave Meggett, 40 for 122 yds, 3.1 avg.
PASSING–Drew Bledsoe, 623 att, 373 comp, 59.9%, 4086 yds, 27 TDs., 15 INTs
RECEIVING–Terry Glenn, 90 for 1132 yds, 12.6 avg; Ben Coates, 62 for 682 yds, 11.0 avg.
SCORING–Adam Vinatieri, 120 pts on 39 PATs, 27 FGs; C. Martin, 104 pts on 17 TDs, 1-2pt.

PACKER-PATRIOT SERIES

Packers won 3, Patriots won 3, tied 0; Points: Packers 167, Patriots 114

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR
30	Brown, Corwin	FS
93	Brown, Monty	LB
80	Brown, Troy	WR
85	Burke, John	TE
54	Bruschi, Tedy	LB
41	Byars, Keith	FB
26	Canty, Chris	CB
42	Carter, Chris	FS
32	Clay, Willie	FS
87	Coates, Ben	TE
59	Collins, Todd	LB
92	Collons, Ferric	DE
90	Eaton, Chad	DT
33	Gash, Sam	FB
67	Gisler, Mike	G
88	Glenn, Terry	WR
81	Graham, Hason	WR
34	Grant, Rupert	FB
35	Grier, Mario	RB
31	Hitchcock, Jimmy	CB
63	Irwin, Heath	G
37	Israel, Steve	CB
84	Jefferson, Shawn	WR
52	Johnson, Ted	LB
96	Jones, Mike	DE
68	Lane, Max	T
24	Law, Ty	CB
28	Martin, Curtis	RB
55	McGinst, Willie	LB
27	McGruder, Scooter	CB
22	Meggett, David	RB
36	Milloy, Lawyer	SS
98	Mitchell, Brandon	DT
58	Moore, Marty	LB
62	Moss, Zelfross	T
71	Rucci, Todd	G
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	DT
44	Shaw, Sedrick	RB
53	Slade, Chris	LB
74	Sullivan, Chris	DE
19	Tupa, Tom	P/QB
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K
97	Wheeler, Mark	DT
25	Whigham, Larry	S
64	Wohlabaugh, Dave	C
72	Wyman, Devin	DT
16	Zolak, Scott	QB

1996 RESULTS

(11-5)

10	at Miami	24
10	at Buffalo	17
31	ARIZONA	0
28	JACKSONVILLE (ot)	25
46	at Baltimore	38
22	WASHINGTON	27
27	at Indianapolis	9
28	BUFFALO	25
42	MIAMI	23
31	at NY Jets	27
8	DENVER	34
27	INDIANAPOLIS	13
45	at San Diego	7
34	NY JETS	10
6	at Dallas	12
23	at NY Giants	22
418		313

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	SAN DIEGO
Sep 7	at Indianapolis
Sep 14	NY JETS
Sep 21	CHICAGO
Sep 28	Bye
Oct 6	at Denver
Oct 12	BUFFALO
Oct 19	at NY Jets
Oct 27	**GREEN BAY**
Nov 2	at Minnesota
Nov 9	at Buffalo
Nov 16	at Tampa Bay
Nov 23	MIAMI
Nov 30	INDIANAPOLIS
Dec 7	at Jacksonville
Dec 13	PITTSBURGH
Dec 22	at Miami

Cincinnati Bengals

STAFF

Head Coach: Bruce Coslet. Assistants: Paul Alexander, Jim Anderson, Ken Anderson, Louie Cioffi, Mark Duffner, John Garrett, Ray Horton, Tim Krumrie, Dick LeBeau, Al Roberts, Kim Wood, Bob Wylie. Home Field: Riverfront Stadium, Capacity 60,389; Colors: Orange, Black, White; Address: 200 Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Garrison Hearst, 225 for 847 yds, 3.8 avg; Jeff Blake, 72 for 317 yds, 4.4 avg.
PASSING–Jeff Blake 549 att, 308 comp, 56.1%, 3624 yds, 24 TDs, 14 INTs.
RECEIVING–Carl Pickens, 100 for 1180 yds, 11.8 avg; Darney Scott, 58 for 833 yds, 14.4 avg.
SCORING–Doug Pelfrey, 110 pts on 41 PATs, 23 FGs; Carl Pickens, 74 pts on 12 TDs, 1-2pt.

PACKER-BENGAL SERIES

Packers won 4, Bengals won 4, tied 0; Points: Packers 138, Bengals 172

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
33	Ambrose, Ashley	CB
71	Anderson, Willie	T
83	Battaglia, Marco	TE
21	Bienemy, Eric	RB
66	Blackman, Ken	G
8	Blake, Jeff	QB
74	Braham, Rich	G
65	Brilz, Darrick	C
75	Brown, Anthony	T
72	Brumfield, Scott	T
32	Carter, Ki-Jana	RB
92	Copeland, John	DT
29	Cothran, Jeff	FB
51	Dixon, Gerald	LB
80	Dunn, David	WR
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB
50	Francis, James	LB
84	Hill, Jeff	WR
11	Johnson, Lee	P
90	Johnson, Tim	DE
60	Jones, Rod	G
24	Jones, Roger	CB
34	Mack, Tremain	SS
56	McDonald, Ricardo	LB
82	McGee, Tony	TE
44	Milne, Brian	FB
31	Myers, Greg	FS
52	Neal, Randy	LB
26	Orlando, Bo	S
64	Payne, Rod	C
9	Pelfrey, Doug	K
81	Pickens, Carl	WR
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE
77	Sargent, Kevin	T
23	Sawyer, Corey	CB
86	Scott, Darnay	WR
35	Shade, Sam	SS
70	Smith, Artie	DT
22	Spencer, Jimmy	CB
79	Stallings, Ramondo	DE
57	Sutter, Eddie	LB
51	Tovar, Steve	LB
53	Tumulty, Tom	LB
61	Tutan, Melvin	T
67	Von Oelhoffen, Kimo	DT
27	Walker, Bracey	S
63	Walter, Joe	T
4	Wilhelm, Eric	QB
99	Wilkerson, Dan	LB
91	Wilson, Reinard	LB

1996 RESULTS

(8-8)

16	at St Louis	26
14	at San Diego	27
30	NEW ORLEANS	15
10	DENVER	14
27	HOUSTON (ot)	30
10	at Pittsburgh	20
21	at San Francisco	28
28	JACKSONVILLE	21
24	at Baltimore	21
34	PITTSBURGH	24
17	at Buffalo	31
41	ATLANTA	31
27	at Jacksonville	30
21	BALTIMORE	14
21	at Houston	13
31	INDIANAPOLIS	24
372		369

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	ARIZONA
Sep 7	at Baltimore
Sep 14	Bye
Sep 21	at Denver
Sep 28	NY JETS
Oct 5	at Jacksonville
Oct 12	at Houston
Oct 19	PITTSBURGH
Oct 26	at NY Giants
Nov 2	SAN DIEGO
Nov 9	at Indianapolis
Nov 16	at Pittsburgh
Nov 23	JACKSONVILLE
Nov 30	at Philadelphia
Dec 4	HOUSTON
Dec 14	DALLAS
Dec 21	BALTIMORE

Baltimore Ravens

STAFF

Head Coach:Ted Marchibroda. Assistants: Maxie Baughn, Jacob Burney, Lester Erb, Kirk Ferentz, Al Lavan, Marvin Lewis, Richard Mann, Scott O'Brien, Alvin Reynolds, Jim Schwartz, John Settle, Jerry Simmons, Don Strock, Ken Whisenhunt. Home Field: Memorial Stadium, Capacity 65,000; Colors: Black, Purple, Gold; Address: 11001 Owings Mills Blvd., Owings Mills, MD 21117.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Bam Morris, 172 for 737 yds, 4.3 avg; Ernest Byner, 159 for 634 yds, 4.0 avg.
PASSING–Vinny Testaverde, 549 att, 325 comp, 59.2%, 4177 yds, 33 TDs, 19 INTs.
RECEIVING–Michael Jackson, 76 for 1201, 15.8 avg; D. Alexander, 62 for 1099, 17.7 avg.
SCORING–Matt Stover, 91 pts on 34 PATs, 19 FGs; M. Jackson, 88 pts on 14 TDs, 2-2pt.

PACKER–RAVENS SERIES

Packers won 9, Ravens won 6, tied 0; Points: Packers 336, Ravens 297

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
88	Alexander, Derrick	WR
23	Baldwin, Randy	RB
69	Blackshear, Jeff	G
58	Boulware, Peter	DE
24	Brady, Donny	DB
22	Brew, Dorian	CB
51	Brown, Cornell	LB
77	Brown, Orlando	T
90	Burnett, Rob	DL
21	Byner, Ernest	RB
56	Caldwell, Mike	LB
86	Ethridge, Ray	WR
78	Footman, Dan	DE
94	Frederick, Mike	DE
73	Goad, Tim	DT
62	Goeas, Leo	G
50	Goganious, Deith	LB
34	Graham, Jay	RB
86	Green, Eric	TE
20	Herring, Kim	S
64	Isaia, Sale	G/T
81	Jackson, Michael	WR
25	Jenkins, Deron	CB
97	Jones, James	DT
31	Jones, Rondell	S
88	Kinchen, Brian	TE
38	Langham, Antonio	CB
39	Lee, Steve	RB
84	Lewis, Jermaine	WR
53	Lewis, Ray	LB
99	McCrary, Michael	DE
9	Montgomery, Greg	P
27	Moore, Stevon	S
33	Morris, "Bam"	RB
67	Neujahr, Quentin	G/T
75	Ogden, Jonathan	G
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE
59	Powell, Craig	LB
83	Roe, James	WR
55	Sharper, Jamie	LB
96	Siragusa, Tony	DT
3	Stover, Matt	K
54	Sutter, Eddie	LB
12	Testaverde, Vinny	QB
37	Thompson, Bennie	S
29	Turner, Eric	DB
87	Turner, Floyd	WR
57	Williams, Jerrol	LB
67	Williams, Wally	C
10	Zeier, Eric	QB

1996 RESULTS

(4-12)

19	OAKLAND	14
17	at Pittsburgh	31
13	at Houston	29
17	NEW ORLEANS	10
38	NEW ENGLAND	46
21	at Indianapolis	26
34	at Denver	45
37	ST. LOUIS (ot)	31
21	CINCINNATI	24
27	at Jacksonville	30
20	at San Francisco	38
25	JACKSONVILLE (ot)	28
31	PITTSBURGH	17
14	at Cincinnati	21
16	at Carolina	27
21	HOUSTON	24
371		441

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	JACKSONVILLE
Sep 7	CINCINNATI
Sep 14	at NY Giants
Sep 21	at Houston
Sep 28	at San Diego
Oct 5	PITTSBURGH
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 19	MIAMI
Oct 26	at Washington
Nov 2	at NY Jets
Nov 9	at Pittsburgh
Nov 16	PHILADELPHIA
Nov 23	ARIZONA
Nov 30	at Jacksonville
Dec 7	SEATTLE
Dec 14	HOUSTON
Dec 21	at Cincinnati

Jacksonville Jaguars

STAFF

Head Coach: Tom Coughlin. Assistants: Joe Baker, Pete Carmichael, Randy Edsall, Fred Hoaglin, Jerald Ingram, Dick Jauron, Mike Maser, Chris Palmer, Jerry Palmieri, Larry Pasquale, John Pease, Lucious Selmon, Steve Szabo. Home Field: Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, Capacity 73,000; Colors: Teal, Vegas Gold and Black. Address: One Stadium Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–James Stewart, 190 for 723 yds, 3.8 avg; Natrone Means, 152 for 507 yds, 3.3 avg.
PASSING–Mark Brunell, 557 att, 353 comp, 63.4%, 4367 yds, 19 TDs, 20 INTs.
RECEIVING–Keenan McCardell, 85 for 1129, 13.3 avg; Jimmy Smith, 83 for 1244, 15.0 avg.
SCORING–Mike Hollis, 117 pts on 27 PATs, 30 FGs; James Stewart, 60 pts on 10 TDs.

PACKER–JAGUAR SERIES

Packers won 1, Jaguars won 0, tied 0; Points: Packers 24, Jaguars 14

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
4	Barker, Bryan	P
21	Beasley, Aaron	CB
71	Boselli, Tony	T
52	Boyer, Bryant	LB
90	Brackens, Tony	DE
86	Brown, Derek	TE
8	Brunell, Mark	QB
62	Cheever, Michael	C
62	Coleman, Ben	G
92	Davey, Don	DT
77	Davis, Andre	DT
45	Davis, Travis	SS
73	DeMarco, Brian	T
27	Figures, Dion	CB
91	Frase, Paul	DT
28	Hall, Dana	FS
49	Hallock, Ty	TE
51	Hardy, Kevin	LB
74	Herndon, Jimmy	T
1	Hollis, Mike	K
37	Hudson, Chris	FS
78	Huntington, Greg	C
80	Jackson, Willie	WR
11	Johnson, Rob	QB
64	Jurkovic, John	DT
57	Kopp, Jeff	LB
56	Lageman, Jeff	DE
89	Marsh, Curtis	WR
40	Massey, Robert	CB
35	Maston, LeShai	RB
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR
55	McManus, Tom	LB
20	Means, Natrone	RB
83	Mitchell, Pete	TE
67	Novak, Jeff	T
5	Philcox, Todd	QB
75	Price, Marcus	T
94	Pritchett, Kelvin	DT
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB
58	Schwartz, Bryan	LB
72	Searcy, Leon	T
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE
99	Smeege, Joel	DE
82	Smith, Jimmy	WR
33	Stewart, James	RB
41	Thomas, Dave	CB
95	Thompson, Mike	DT
76	Tylski, Rich	G
79	Widell, Dave	C/G
97	Wynn, Renaldo	DT

1996 RESULTS

(9-7)

24	PITTSBURGH	9
27	HOUSTON	34
3	at Oakland	17
25	at New England (ot)	28
24	CAROLINA	14
13	at New Orleans	17
21	NY JETS	17
14	at St. Louis	17
21	Cincinnati	28
30	BALTIMORE	27
3	at Pittsburgh	28
28	at Baltimore (ot)	25
30	CINCINNATI	27
23	at Houston	17
20	SEATTLE	13
19	ATLANTA	17
325		335

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Baltimore
Sep 7	NY GIANTS
Sep 14	Bye
Sep 22	PITTSBURGH
Sep 28	at Washington
Oct 5	CINCINNATI
Oct 12	PHILADELPHIA
Oct 19	at Dallas
Oct 26	at Pittsburgh
Nov 2	at Houston
Nov 9	KANSAS CITY
Nov 16	HOUSTON
Nov 23	at Cincinnati
Nov 30	BALTIMORE
Dec 7	NEW ENGLAND
Dec 14	at Buffalo
Dec 21	at Oakland

Tennessee Oilers

STAFF

Head Coach: Jeff Fisher. Assistants: Dick Coury, Alan Lowry, Mike Munchak, Rex Norris, Rod Perry, Russ Purnell, Jerry Rhome, Steve Sidwell, Warren Simmons, Sherman Smith, Les Steckle, Steve Watterson, Gregg Williams. Home Field: Liberty Bowl, Capacity 62,420; Colors: Columbia Blue, Scarlet, White; Address: Memphis, TN.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Eddie George, 335 for 1368 yds, 4.1 avg; Steve McNair, 31 for 169 yds, 5.5 avg.
PASSING–Chris Chandler, 320 att, 184 comp, 57.5%, 2099 yds, 16 TDs, 11 INTs.
RECEIVING–Frank Wycheck, 53 for 511 yds, 9.6 avg; Chris Sanders, 46 for 882 yds, 18.4 avg.
SCORING–Al Del Greco, 131 pts on 35 PATs, 32 FGs; Eddie George, 48 pts on 8 TDs.

PACKER–OILER SERIES

Oilers won 3, Packers won 3, tied 0; Points: Oilers 131, Packers 96

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
32	Archie, Mike	RB
23	Bishop, Blain	S
58	Bowden, Joe	LB
94	Burton, Kendrick	DE
78	Cook, Anthony	DE
86	Davis, Willie	WR
3	Del Greco, Al	K
77	Donnalley, Kevin	G
30	Dorsett, Anthony	CB
75	Eatman, Irv	T
60	El-Mashtoub, Hicham	G
83	Floyd, Malcolm	WR
92	Ford, Henry	DE
27	George, Eddie	RB
21	Gray, Mel	KR/WR
51	Hall, Lemanski	LB
93	Halapin, Mike	DT
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB
79	Hayes, Melvin	T
72	Hopkins, Brad	T
24	Jackson, Steve	CB
57	Jones, Leroy	LB
50	Killens, Terry	LB
17	Krieg, David	QB
66	Layman, Jason	T
29	Lewis, Darryll	CB
88	Lewis, Roderick	TE
51	Marts, Lonnie	LB
74	Matthews, Bruce	G
87	McKeehan, James	TE
9	McNair, Steve	QB
97	Mix, Bryant	DE
64	Norgard, Erik	C
16	Richey, James	QB
80	Roan, Michael	HB
90	Roberson, James	DE
31	Robertson, Marcus	S
37	Robinson, Rafael	SS
7	Roby, Reggie	P
69	Runyon, Jon	T
85	Russell, Derek	WR
81	Sanders, Chris	WR
54	Smith, Al	LB
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C
26	Stewart, Rayna	FS
20	Thomas, Rodney	RB
96	Walker, Gary	DT
82	Wilson, Sheddrick	WR
52	Wortham, Barron	LB
89	Wycheck, Frank	HB

1996 RESULTS

(8-8)

19	KANSAS CITY	20
34	at Jacksonville	27
29	BALTIMORE	13
16	at Pittsburgh	30
30	at Cincinnati (ot)	27
23	at Atlanta	13
23	PITTSBURGH	13
9	SAN FRANCISCO	10
16	at Seattle	23
31	at New Orleans	14
20	MIAMI	23
6	CAROLINA	31
35	at NY Jets	10
17	JACKSONVILLE	23
13	CINCINNATI	21
24	at Baltimore	21
345		319

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	OAKLAND
Sep 7	at Miami
Sep 14	Bye
Sep 21	BALTIMORE
Sep 28	at Pittsburgh
Oct 5	at Seattle
Oct 12	CINCINNATI
Oct 19	WASHINGTON
Oct 26	at Arizona
Nov 2	JACKSONVILLE
Nov 9	NY GIANTS
Nov 16	at Jacksonville
Nov 23	BUFFALO
Nov 27	at Dallas
Dec 4	at Cincinnati
Dec 14	at Baltimore
Dec 21	PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh Steelers

STAFF

Head Coach: Bill Cowher. Assistants: Mike Archer, David Culley, Chan Gailey, Jim Haslet, Dick Hoak, Tim Lewis, John Mitchell, Mike Mularkey, Kent Stephenson, Ron Zook. Home Field: Three Rivers Stadium, Capacity 59,600; Colors: Black, Gold; Address: 300 Stadium Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Jerome Bettis, 320 for 1431 yds, 4.5 avg; Erric Pegram, 97 for 509 yds, 5.2 avg.
PASSING–Mike Tomczak, 401 att, 222 comp, 55.4%, 2767 yds, 15 TDs, 17 INTs.
RECEIVING–Andre Hastings, 48 for 502 yds, 10.5 avg; Charles Johnson, 60 for 1008 yds, 16.8 avg.
SCORING–Norm Johnson, 106 pts on 37 PATs, 23 FGs; Jerome Bettis, 66 on 11 TDs.

PACKER–STEELER SERIES

Packers won 18, Steelers won 11, tied 0; Points: Packers 689, Steelers 487

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
40	Bell, Myron	S
36	Bettis, Jerome	RB
89	Blackwell, Will	WR
87	Bruener, Mark	TE
96	Buckner, Brentson	DE
53	Conley, Steven	LB
72	Dafney, Bernard	T
63	Dawson, Dermontti	G/C
51	Emmons, Carlos	LB
41	Flowers, Lethon	CB
29	Fuller, Randy	CB
98	Gibson, Oliver	DT
92	Gildon, Jason	LB
74	Harrison, Nolan	DE
85	Hawkins, Courtney	WR
76	Henry, Kevin	DE
83	Holiday, Corey	WR
50	Holmes, Earl	LB
65	Jackson, John	OT
81	Johnson, Charles	WR
9	Johnson, Norm	K
54	Jones, Donta	LB
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB
37	Lake, Carnell	SS
34	Lester, Tim	FB
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB
86	Lyons, Mitch	TE
25	McAfee, Fred	RB
49	Miles, Barron	CB
16	Miller, Jim	QB
4	Miller, Josh	P
62	Myslinski, Tom	G
24	Oldham, Chris	CB
55	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB
20	Pegram, Erric	RB
39	Perry, Darren	S
57	Ravotti, Eric	LB
71	Roye, Orpheus	DE
30	Scott, Chad	CB
68	Stai, Brenden	G
93	Steed, Joel	NT
67	Stephens, Jamain	T
10	Stewart, Kordell	QB
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	OT
66	Sweeny, Jim	C
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB
38	Witman, Jon	FB
77	Wolford, Will	T
21	Woolford, Donnell	CB

1996 RESULTS

(10-6)

9	at Jacksonville	24
31	BALTIMORE	17
24	BUFFALO	6
30	HOUSTON	16
17	at Kansas City	7
20	CINCINNATI	10
13	at Houston	23
20	at Atlanta	17
42	ST. LOUIS	6
24	at Cincinnati	34
28	JACKSONVILLE	3
24	at Miami	17
17	at Baltimore	31
16	SAN DIEGO	3
15	SAN FRANCISCO	25
14	at Carolina	18
344		257

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	DALLAS
Sep 7	WASHINGTON
Sep 14	Bye
Sep 22	at Jacksonville
Sep 28	HOUSTON
Oct 5	at Baltimore
Oct 12	INDIANAPOLIS
Oct 19	at Cincinnati
Oct 26	JACKSONVILLE
Nov 3	at Kansas City
Nov 9	BALTIMORE
Nov 16	CINCINNATI
Nov 23	at Philadelphia
Nov 30	at Arizona
Dec 7	DENVER
Dec 13	at New England
Dec 21	at Houston

Denver Broncos

STAFF

Head Coach: Mike Shanahan. Assistants: Frank Bush, Barney Chavous, Rick Dennison, Ed Donatell, George Dyer, Alex Gibbs, Mike Heimerdinger, Gary Kubiak, Brian Pariani, Ricky Porter, Greg Robinson, Greg Saporta, Richard Smith, John Teerlinck, Bobby Turner, Rich Tuten. Home Field: Mile High Stadium, Capacity 76,078; Colors: Navy Blue, Orange, White; Address: 13655 Broncos Pkwy, Englewood, CO 80112.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Terrell Davis, 345 for 1538 yds, 4.5 avg; Vaughn Hebron, 49 for 262 yds, 5.3 avg.
PASSING–John Elway, 466 att, 287 comp, 61.6%, 3328 yds, 26 TDs, 14 INTs
RECEIVING–Shannon Sharpe, 80 for 1062 yds, 13.3 avg; A. Miller, 56 for 735 yds, 13.1 avg.
SCORING–Jason Elam, 109 pts on 46 PATs, 11 FGs; Terrell Davis, 90 pts on 15 TDs.

PACKER-BRONCO SERIES

Broncos won 4, Packers won 3, tied 1. Points: Broncos 141, Packers 165

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
73	Adams, Scott	G/T
57	Aldridge, Allen	LB
83	Anderson, "Flipper"	WR
27	Atwater, Steve	S
92	Barber, Kurt	DE
34	Braxton, Tyrone	S
55	Brown, Ken	LB
56	Burns, Keith	LB
59	Cadrez, Glenn	LB
67	Campbell, Mark	DT
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE
39	Crockett, Ray	CB
30	Davis, Terrell	RB
1	Elam, Jason	K
7	Elway, John	QB
40	Gillard, Cory	S
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB
85	Green, Willie	WR
29	Griffith, Howard	FB
75	Habib, Brian	T
54	Hager, Brit	LB
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DE
22	Hebron, Vaughn	RB
21	Hilliard, Randy	CB
20	James, Tory	CB
77	Jones, Tony	T
8	Lewis, Jeff	QB
29	Lynn, Anthony	FB
87	McCaffery, Ed	WR
33	McMillan, Erik	CB
83	Miller, Anthony	WR
51	Mobley, John	LB
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB
66	Nalen, Tom	C
62	Neil, Dan	G/C
95	Perry, Michael Dean	DT
93	Pryce, Trevor	DT
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB
16	Rouen, Tom	P
69	Schlereth, Mark	G
84	Sharpe, Shannon	WR
42	Smith, Detron	FB
99	Smith, Neil	DE
80	Smith, Rod	WR
74	Swayne, Harry	T
91	Williams, Alfred	DE
90	Williams, Dan	DE
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T

1996 RESULTS

(13-3)

31	NY JETS	6
30	at Seattle	20
27	TAMPA BAY	23
14	at Kansas City	17
14	at Cincinnati	10
28	SAN DIEGO	17
45	BALTIMORE	34
34	KANSAS CITY	7
22	at Oakland	21
17	CHICAGO	12
34	at New England	8
21	at Minnesota	17
34	SEATTLE	7
6	at **Green Bay**	41
24	OAKLAND	19
10	at San Diego	16
391		275

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	KANSAS CITY
Sep 7	at Seattle
Sep 14	ST. LOUIS
Sep 21	CINCINNATI
Sep 28	at Atlanta
Oct 6	NEW ENGLAND
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 19	at Oakland
Oct 26	at Buffalo
Nov 2	SEATTLE
Nov 9	CAROLINA
Nov 16	at Kansas City
Nov 24	OAKLAND
Nov 30	at San Diego
Dec 7	at Pittsburgh
Dec 15	at San Francisco
Dec 21	SAN DIEGO

Oakland Raiders

STAFF

Head Coach: Joe Bugel. Assistants: Dave Adolph, Fred Biletnikioff, Willie Brown, Garrett Giemont, John Guy, Bishop Harris, Bill Meyers, Floyd Peters, Ray Perkins, Keith Rowen, Steve Shafer, Kevin Spencer, Rusty Tillman, Fred Whittingham, Mike Wilson. Home Field: Oakland-Alameda Coliseum, Capacity 92,488; Colors: Silver, Black; Address: 332 Center Street, El Segundo, CA 90245.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Napoleon Kaufman, 150 for 874, 5.8 avg; H. Williams, 121 for 431 yds, 3.6 avg.
PASSING–Jeff Hostetler, 402 att, 242 comp, 60.2%, 2548 yds, 23 TDs, 14 INTs.
RECEIVING–Tim Brown, 90 for 1104 yds, 12.3 avg; Daryl Hobbs, 44 for 423 yds, 9.6 avg.
SCORING–Cole Ford, 108 pts on 36 PATs, 24 FGs; Tim Brown, 54 pts on 9 TDs.

PACKER-RAIDER SERIES

Raiders won 5, Packers won 3, tied 0. Points: Raiders 144, Packers 128

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
33	Anderson, Eddie	S
4	Araguza, Leo	P
35	Aska, Joe	RB
54	Biekert, Greg	LB
24	Brown, Larry	CB
81	Brown, Tim	WR
99	Bruce, Aundray	DE
20	Carter, Perry	CB
68	Cunningham, Rick	T
83	Dudly, Rickey	TE
78	Faumui, Taase	DE
55	Folston, James	LB
5	Ford, Cole	K
53	Fredrickson, Rob	LB
1	George, Jeff	QB
45	Hall, Tim	RB
75	Harlow, Pat	T
85	Hinton, Marcus	TE
9	Hollas, Donald	QB
57	Holmberg, Rob	LB
73	Holmes, Lester	G
80	Howard, Desmond	KR/WR
64	Jenkins, Robert	T
82	Jett, James	WR
94	Johnson, Kevin	DT
51	Johnstone, Lance	DE
26	Kaufman, Napoleon	RB
72	Kennedy, Lincoln	T
46	Kidd, Carl	CB
7	Klinger, David	QB
79	Kysar, Jeff	T
25	Land, Dan	CB
29	Lewis, Albert	CB
43	Lynch, Lorenzo	S
23	Lyons, Lamar	S
97	Maryland, Russell	DT
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB
91	McGlockton, Chester	DE
50	Morton, Mike	LB
63	Robbins, Barret	C
84	Shedd, Kenny	WR
94	Smith, Anthony	DE
56	Swilling, Pat	DE
37	Trapp, James	CB
88	Truitt, Olanda	WR
67	Turk, Dan	C
29	Turner, Eric	S
72	Villa, Danny	G
22	Williams, Harvey	RB
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G

1996 RESULTS

(7-9)

14	at Baltimore	19
3	at Kansas City	19
17	JACKSONVILLE	3
34	SAN DIEGO	40
17	at Chicago	19
34	at NY Jets	13
37	DETROIT	21
23	at San Diego	14
21	DENVER	22
17	at Tampa Bay (ot)	20
13	MINNESOTA (ot)	16
27	at Seattle	21
17	MIAMI	7
26	KANSAS CITY	7
19	at Denver	24
21	SEATTLE	28
340		293

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Houston
Sep 8	KANSAS CITY
Sep 14	at Atlanta
Sep 21	at NY Jets
Sep 28	ST. LOUIS
Oct 5	SAN DIEGO
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 19	DENVER
Oct 26	at Seattle
Nov 2	at Carolina
Nov 9	NEW ORLEANS
Nov 16	at San Diego
Nov 24	at Denver
Nov 30	MIAMI
Dec 7	at Kansas City
Dec 14	SEATTLE
Dec 21	JACKSONVILLE

Kansas City Chiefs

STAFF

Head Coach: Marty Schottenheimer. Assistants: Gunther Cunningham, Jim Erkenbeck, Paul Hackett, Bob Karmelowicz, Woodrow Lowe, Mike McCarthy, Roberto Parker, Jimmy Raye, Dave Redding, Al Saunders, Kurt Schottenheimer, Mike Solari, Mike Stock, Darvin Wallis. Home Field: Arrowhead Stadium, Capacity 79,101; Colors: Red, Gold; Address: One Arrowhead Drive, Kansas City, MO 64129.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Marcus Allen, 206 for 830 yds, 4.0 avg; Greg Hill, 135 for 645 yds, 4.8 avg.
PASSING–Steve Bono, 438 att, 235 comp, 53.7%, 2572 yds, 12 TDs, 13 INTs.
RECEIVING–Kimble Andres, 60 for 529 yds, 8.8 avg; Chris Penn, 49 for 628 yds, 12.8 avg.
SCORING–Pete Stoyanovich, 85 pts on 34 PATs, 17 FGs; Marcus Allen, 54 pts on 9 TDs.

PACKER-CHIEF SERIES

Chiefs won 5, Packers won 2, tied 1. Points: Chiefs 124, Packers 116

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
5	Aguilar, Louie	P
32	Allen, Marcus	RB
76	Alt, John	T
38	Anders, Kimble	RB
44	Anderson, Darren	CB
71	Barndt, Tom	T
30	Bennett, Donnell	FB
99	Booker, Vaughn	DE
93	Browning, John	DE
94	Buckner, Brenston	DT
41	Cade, Eddie	S
34	Carter, Dale	DB
25	Collins, Mark	S
69	Criswell, Jeff	T
50	Davis, Anthoney	LB
80	Dawson, Lake	WR
55	Dumas, Troy	LB
59	Edwards, Donnie	LB
12	Gannon, Rich	QB
88	Gonzalez, Tony	TE
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB
61	Grunhard, Tim	C
40	Hasty, James	CB
27	Hill, Greg	RB
74	Jenkins, Trezelle	T
18	LaChappelle, Sean	WR
51	Manusky, Greg	LB
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE
81	Penn, Chris	WR
83	Perriman, Brett	WR
75	Phillips, Joe	DT
82	Rison, Andre	WR
95	Roberts, Tim	DE
36	Ross, Kevin	SS
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT
68	Shields, Will	G
66	Siglar, Ricky	T
54	Simien, Tracy	LB
22	Smith, J.J	RB
45	Stargell, Tony	CB
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K
79	Szott, David	G
64	Tamm, Ralph	C
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB
41	Tongue, Reggie	CB
73	Valerio, Joe	T
87	Vanover, Tamarick	WR
82	Walker, Derrick	TE
29	Washington, Brian	S
90	Wooden, Terry	LB

1996 RESULTS

(9-7)

20	at Houston	19
19	OAKLAND	3
35	at Seattle	17
17	DENVER	14
19	at San Diego	22
7	PITTSBURGH	17
34	SEATTLE	16
7	at Denver	34
21	at Minnesota	6
27	**GREEN BAY**	20
14	CHICAGO	10
14	SAN DIEGO	28
28	at Detroit	24
7	at Oakland	26
19	INDIANAPOLIS	24
9	at Buffalo	20
297		300

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at Denver
Sep 8	at Oakland
Sep 14	BUFFALO
Sep 21	at Carolina
Sep 28	SEATTLE
Oct 5	at Miami
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 16	SAN DIEGO
Oct 26	at St. Louis
Nov 3	PITTSBURGH
Nov 9	at Jacksonville
Nov 16	DENVER
Nov 23	at Seattle
Nov 30	SAN FRANCISCO
Dec 7	OAKLAND
Dec 14	at San Diego
Dec 21	NEW ORLEANS

San Diego Chargers

STAFF

Head Coach: Kevin Gilbride. Assistants: Mike Cavanaugh, George DeLeone, Tyrone Dixon, John Hastings, Kevin Lempa, Bill Macdermott, Nick Nicolau, Frank Novak, Joe Pascale, Darrell Pasquale, Rod Perry, Mike Sheppard, Jim Vechiarella, Ollie Wilson. Home Field: Jack Murphy Stadium, Capacity 61,863; Colors: Navy Blue, White, Gold; Address: P.O. Box 609609, San Diego, CA 92160.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Leonard Russell, 219 for 713 yds, 3.3 avg; Terrell Fletcher, 77 for 282 yds, 3.7 avg.
PASSING–Stan Humphries, 416 att, 232 comp, 55.8%, 2670 yds, 18 TDs, 13 INTs.
RECEIVING–Tony Martin, 85 for 1171 yds, 13.8 avg; Terrell Fletcher, 61 for 476 yds, 7.8 avg.
SCORING–John Carney, 118 pts on 31 PATs, 29 FGs; Tony Martin 84 pts on 14 TDs.

PACKER-CHARGER SERIES

Packers won 5, Chargers won 1, tied 0. Points: Packers 170, Chargers 80

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
2	Bennett, Darren	P
75	Berti, Tony	T
50	Binn, David	LB
58	Bush, Lewis	LB
3	Carney, John	K
44	Castle, Eric	FS
31	Clark, Willie	CB
68	Cocozzo, Joe	G
83	Coleman, Andre	WR
90	Coleman, Marco	DE
29	Craver, Aaron	RB
51	Cummings, Joe	LB
77	Davis, Isaac	G
93	Davis, Reuben	DT
38	Dumas, Mike	S
84	Ellison, 'Omar	WR
60	Engle, Greg	C
17	Everett, Jim	QB
41	Fletcher, Terrell	RB
95	Fuller, William	DE
35	Gardner, Carwell	RB
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB
53	Hamilton, Michael	LB
28	Harper, Dwayne	CB
37	Harrison, Rodney	S
48	Hartley, Frank	TE
24	Hayden, Aaron	RB
38	Hendrix, David	SS
12	Humphries, Stan	QB
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE
88	Jones, Freddie	TE
98	Lee, Shawn	DT
81	Martin, Tony	WR
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	C
21	Metcalf, Eric	WR/KR
66	Mills, Jim	T
94	Mims, Chris	DE
89	Mitchell, Shannon	TE
40	Montreuil, Mark	CB
85	Oliver, Jimmy	WR
70	Parker, Vaughn	G/T
97	Parrella, John	DT
86	Pupuna, Alfred	WR
56	Sapp, Patrick	LB
55	Seau, Junior	LB
29	Shaw, Terrance	CB
65	Sienkiewicz, Troy	G
80	Still, Bryan	WR
47	Thomas, Johnny	CB
5	Whelihan, Craig	QB

1996 RESULTS

(8-8)

29	SEATTLE	7
27	CINCINNATI	14
10	at **Green Bay**	42
40	at Oakland	34
22	KANSAS CITY	19
17	at Denver	28
14	OAKLAND	23
13	at Seattle	32
26	at Indianapolis	19
27	DETROIT	21
17	TAMPA BAY	25
28	at Kansas City	14
7	NEW ENGLAND	45
3	at Pittsburgh	16
14	at Chicago	27
16	DENVER	10
310		376

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	at New England
Sep 7	at New Orleans
Sep 14	CAROLINA
Sep 21	at Seattle
Sep 28	BALTIMORE
Oct 5	at Oakland
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 16	at Kansas City
Oct 26	INDIANAPOLIS
Nov 2	at Cincinnati
Nov 9	SEATTLE
Nov 16	OAKLAND
Nov 23	at San Francisco
Nov 30	DENVER
Dec 7	ATLANTA
Dec 14	KANSAS CITY
Dec 21	at Denver

Seattle Seahawks

STAFF

Head Coach: Dennis Erickson. Assistants: Dave Arnold, Tommy Brasher, Bob Bratkowski, Dave Brown, Keith Gilbertson, Ned James, Darren Krein, Dana LeDuc, Greg McMakin, Mike Murphy, Rich Olson, Willie Robinson, Clarence Shelmon, Gregg Smith. Home Field: The Kingdome, Capacity 66,400; Colors: Blue, Green, Silver; Address: 11220 N.E. 53rd St., Kirkland, WA 98033.

1996 LEADERS

RUSHING–Chris Warren, 203 for 855 yds, 4.2 avg; Lamar Smith, 153 for 680, 4.4 avg.
PASSING–Rick Mirer, 265 att, 136 comp, 51.3%, 1546 yds, 5 TDs, 12 INTs.
RECEIVING–Joey Galloway, 57 for 987 yds, 17.3 avg; Brian Blades, 43 for 556 yds, 12.9 avg.
SCORING–Todd Peterson, 111 pts on 27 PATs, 28 FGs; L. Smith, 54 pts on 8 TDs, 3-2pt.

PACKER–SEAHAWK SERIES

Packers won 4, Seahawks won 3, tied 0; Points: Packers 188, Seahawks 156

THE VETERANS

No	Name	Pos
98	Adams, Sam	DT
74	Atkins, James	G
75	Ballard, Howard	T
54	Barber, Michael	LB
64	Barr, Robert	T
63	Beebe, Frank	G
20	Bellamy, Jay	FS
36	Blades, Bennie	S
89	Blades, Brian	WR
60	Bloedorn, Greg	C
31	Broussard, Steve	RB
99	Brown, Chad	LB
91	Bryant, Keif	DE
59	Cain, Joe	LB
87	Crumpler, Carlester	TE
93	Daniels, Phillip	DE
94	Edwards, Antonio	DE
85	Fauria, Christian	TE
17	Friesz, John	QB
84	Galloway, Joey	WR
77	Graham, Derrick	G
68	Greene, Andrew	G
81	Harris, Ronnie	WR
30	Jones, Carlos	CB
71	Jones, Walter	T
66	Kendall, Pete	G
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT
52	Mawae, Kevin	C
88	May, Deems	TE
82	McKnight, James	WR
92	McMillian, Henry	DT
1	Moon, Warren	QB
55	Moss, Winston	LB
76	Parker, Riddick	DT
2	Peterson, Todd	K
84	Pritchard, Mike	WR
23	Seigler, Dexter	CB
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE
25	Smith, Lamar	RB
24	Springs, Shawn	CB
37	Stokes, Eric	S
38	Strong, Mack	FB
22	Thomas, Fred	CB
14	Tuten, Rick	P
42	Warren, Chris	RB
95	Wells, Dean	LB
33	Williams, Darryl	S
79	Williams, Grant	T
27	Williams, Willie	CB
59	Young, Glen	LB

1996 RESULTS

(7-9)

7	at San Diego	29
20	DENVER	30
17	KANSAS CITY	35
17	at Tampa Bay	13
10	**GREEN BAY**	31
22	at Miami	15
16	at Kansas City	34
32	SAN DIEGO	13
23	HOUSTON	16
42	MINNESOTA	23
16	at Detroit	17
21	OAKLAND	27
7	at Denver	34
26	BUFFALO	18
13	at Jacksonville	20
28	at Oakland	21
317		376

1997 SCHEDULE

Aug 31	NY JETS
Sep 7	DENVER
Sep 14	at Indianapolis
Sep 21	SAN DIEGO
Sep 28	at Kansas City
Oct 5	HOUSTON
Oct 12	Bye
Oct 19	at St. Louis
Oct 26	OAKLAND
Nov 2	at Denver
Nov 9	at San Diego
Nov 16	at New Orleans
Nov 23	KANSAS CITY
Nov 30	ATLANTA
Dec 7	at Baltimore
Dec 14	at Oakland
Dec 21	SAN FRANCISCO

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Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
PO Box 1907, Milwaukee, WI 53201
1-800-236-5437

1996 NFL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NFL LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Long	Int	Sack	Yrds Lost	Rtg
Steve Young, SF	316	214	67.7	2,410	7.6	14	52	6	34	160	97.2
Brett Favre, GB	543	325	59.9	3,899	7.2	39	80t	13	40	241	95.8
Brad Johnson, Min	311	195	62.7	2,258	7.3	17	82t	10	15	119	89.4
John Elway, Den	466	287	61.6	3,328	7.1	26	51	14	26	194	89.2
VinTestaverde, Bal	549	325	59.2	4,177	7.6	33	86t	19	34	270	88.7

NFL LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yrds	Avg	TD
Barry Sanders, Det	307	1,553	5.1	11
Terrell Davis, Den	345	1,538	4.5	13
Jerome Bettis, Pit	320	1,431	4.5	11
Ricky Watters, Phi	353	1,411	4.0	13
Eddie George, Hou	335	1,368	4.1	8

NFL LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yrds	Avg	TD
Jerry Rice, SF	108	1,254	11.6	8
Herman Moore, Det	106	1,296	12.2	9
Carl Pickens, Cin	100	1,180	11.8	12
Larry Centers, Ari	99	766	7.7	7
Cris Carter, Min	96	1,163	12.1	10

NFL LEADING RECEIVERS BY YARDS

	Yrds	No	Avg	TD
Isaac Bruce, StL	1,338	84	15.9	7
Jake Reed, Min	1,320	72	18.3	7
Herman Moore, Det	1,296	106	12.2	9
Jerry Rice, SF	1,254	108	11.6	8
Jimmy Smith, Jac	1,244	83	15.0	7

NFL LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yrds	Avg	Lg
John Kidd, Mia	78	3,611	46.3	63
Chris Gardocki, Ind	68	3,105	45.7	61
Darren Bennett, SD	87	3,967	45.6	66
Lee Johnson, Cin	80	3,630	45.4	67
Matt Turk, Was	75	3,386	45.1	63

NFL LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yrds	Avg	TD
Tyrone Braxton, Den	9	128	14.2	1
Keith Lyle, StL	9	152	16.9	0
Ashley Ambrose, Cin	8	63	7.9	1
Terrel Buckley, Mia	6	164	27.3	1
Eugene Robinson, GB	6	106	17.8	0

NFL LEADING SCORERS-NONKICKERS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
Terry Allen, Wash	21	21	0	126
Curtis Martin, NE	17	14	3	104
Terrell Davis, Den	15	13	2	90
Emmitt Smith, Dal	15	12	3	90
Michael Jackson, Bal	14	0	14	88

NFL LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	Att	Yrds	Avg	TD
Desmond Howard, GB	58	875	15.1	3
Darrien Gordon, SD	36	537	14.9	1
Eddie Kennison, StL	29	423	14.6	2
Rod Smith, Den	23	283	12.3	0
Todd Kinchen, Den	26	300	11.5	0

NFL LEADERS-SACKS

Kevin Greene, Car	14.5
Lamar Lathon, Car	13.5
Michael McCrary, Sea	13.5
Bruce Smith, Buf	13.5
Chad Brown, Pit	13.0
William Fuller, Phi	13.0

NFL LEADING SCORERS-KICKERS

	XP	FG	Pts
John Kasey, Car	34	37	145
Cary Blanchard, Ind	27	36	135
Al Del Greco, Hou	35	32	131
Jeff Wilkins, SF	40	30	130
Chris Boniol, Dal	24	32	120

NFL LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	Att	Yrds	Avg	TD
Michael Bates, Car	33	998	30.2	1
Herschel Walker, Dal	27	779	28.9	0
Tamarick Vanover, KC	33	854	25.9	1
Tyrone Hughs, NO	70	1,791	25.6	0
Glyn Milburn, Det	64	1,627	25.4	0

1997 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Mark your selections...

Total your wins and losses!

WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, August 31						
☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Cincinnati		
☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at Detroit		
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at Pittsburgh		
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at Miami		
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Baltimore		
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Denver		
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at Buffalo		
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at St. Louis		
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Seattle		
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Houston		
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at NY Giants		
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at New England		
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Tampa Bay		
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Carolina		
Monday, September 1						
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at **Green Bay**		

WEEK TWO

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, September 7						
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at NY Jets		
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at Atlanta		
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Baltimore		
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at Arizona		
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Seattle		
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Philadelphia		
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Miami		
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at Chicago		
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Indianapolis		
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Jacksonville		
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at New Orleans		
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at St. Louis		
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at Detroit		
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Pittsburgh		
Monday, September 8						
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Oakland		

WEEK THREE

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, September 14						
☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Washington		
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at NY Giants		
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at Kansas City		
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at San Diego		
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Chicago		
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at **Green Bay**		
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Atlanta		
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at San Francisco		
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at New England		
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at Denver		
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at Indianapolis		
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at Minnesota		
		Cincinnati	Bye	Houston	Bye	
		Jacksonville	Bye	Pittsburgh	Bye	
Monday, September 15						
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Dallas		

WEEK FOUR

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, September 21						
☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at San Francisco		
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at Houston		
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at New England		
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Denver		
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at New Orleans		
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at Buffalo		
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Carolina		
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at Tampa Bay		
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at **Green Bay**		
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at St. Louis		
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at NY Jets		
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at Seattle		
		Arizona	Bye	Dallas	Bye	
		Philadelphia	Bye	Washington	Bye	
Monday, September 22						
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Jacksonville		

WEEK FIVE

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, September 28						
☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Tampa Bay		
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at San Diego		
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at Dallas		
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Atlanta		
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Detroit		
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Pittsburgh		
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Washington		
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at NY Giants		
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Cincinnati		
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Minnesota		
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at Oakland		
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at Kansas City		
		Buffalo	Bye	Indianapolis	Bye	
		Miami	Bye	New England	Bye	
Monday, September 29						
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Carolina		

WEEK SIX

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, October 5						
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Jacksonville		
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at NY Giants		
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Buffalo		
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Seattle		
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Miami		
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at Arizona		
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at Chicago		
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Indianapolis		
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Baltimore		
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at Oakland		
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at **Green Bay**		
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Philadelphia		
		Atlanta	Bye	Carolina	Bye	
		St. Louis	Bye	San Francisco	Bye	
Monday, October 6						
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Denver		

WEEK SEVEN

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Sunday, October 12						
☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at New Orleans		
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at New England		
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at Minnesota		
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Houston		
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Tampa Bay		
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Chicago		
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at Pittsburgh		
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at NY Jets		
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Jacksonville		
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Arizona		
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at San Francisco		
		Baltimore	Bye	Denver	Bye	
		Kansas City	Bye	Oakland	Bye	
		San Diego	Bye	Seattle	Bye	
Monday, October 13						
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at Washington		

WEEK EIGHT

My Picks		Game and Final Score			W	L
Thursday, October 16						
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at Kansas City		
Sunday, October 19						
☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Philadelphia		
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at New Orleans		
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Oakland		
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Dallas		
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at Baltimore		
☐	☐	New England	_____	at NY Jets		
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Detroit		
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Cincinnati		
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Atlanta		
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at St. Louis		
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Houston		
		Chicago	Bye	**Green Bay**	Bye	
		Minneapolis	Bye	Tampa Bay	Bye	
Monday, October 20						
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at Indianapolis		

WEEK NINE

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Sunday, October 26

☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at Carolina	_____
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at Washington	_____
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at Miami	_____
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at NY Giants	_____
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at Philadelphia	_____
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Buffalo	_____
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Arizona	_____
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Pittsburgh	_____
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at St. Louis	_____
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at Tampa Bay	_____
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Seattle	_____
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at New Orleans	_____
		Detroit	Bye	NY Jets	Bye

Monday, October 27

☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at New England	_____

WEEK TEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Sunday, November 2

☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at NY Jets	_____
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at San Francisco	_____
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at **Green Bay**	_____
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Houston	_____
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Arizona	_____
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at Buffalo	_____
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Minnesota	_____
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Carolina	_____
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at Atlanta	_____
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at Cincinnati	_____
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at Denver	_____
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at Indianapolis	_____
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Chicago	_____
		New Orleans	Bye	NY Giants	Bye

Monday, November 3

☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Kansas City	_____

WEEK ELEVEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Sunday, November 9

☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Dallas	_____
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at Pittsburgh	_____
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at Denver	_____
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at Minnesota	_____
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Indianapolis	_____
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Washington	_____
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Jacksonville	_____
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Buffalo	_____
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at Oakland	_____
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Houston	_____
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Miami	_____
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at **Green Bay**	_____
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at Atlanta	_____

Monday, November 10

☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Philadelphia	_____

WEEK TWELVE

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Sunday, November 16

☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at NY Giants	_____
☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at St. Louis	_____
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at San Francisco	_____
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Pittsburgh	_____
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Kansas City	_____
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Indianapolis	_____
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Jacksonville	_____
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at Detroit	_____
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Tampa Bay	_____
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Chicago	_____
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Baltimore	_____
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at New Orleans	_____
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Dallas	_____

Monday, November 17

☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at Miami	_____

WEEK THIRTEEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Sunday, November 23

☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at Baltimore	_____
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at Houston	_____
☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at St. Louis	_____
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at **Green Bay**	_____
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at Detroit	_____
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Cincinnati	_____
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at Seattle	_____
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at New England	_____
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at NY Jets	_____
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at Atlanta	_____
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Washington	_____
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Philadelphia	_____
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at San Francisco	_____
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at Chicago	_____

Monday, November 24

☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Denver	_____

WEEK FOURTEEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Thursday, November 27

☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at Detroit	_____
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Dallas	_____

Sunday, November 30

☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at Seattle	_____
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at Jacksonville	_____
☐	☐	Cincinnati	_____	at Philadelphia	_____
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at New England	_____
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at Oakland	_____
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at Carolina	_____
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Buffalo	_____
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Arizona	_____
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at Washington	_____
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Kansas City	_____
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at NY Giants	_____

Monday, December 1

☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Minnesota	_____

WEEK FIFTEEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Thursday, December 4

☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Cincinnati	_____

Sunday, December 7

☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at Chicago	_____
☐	☐	Denver	_____	at Pittsburgh	_____
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Miami	_____
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Tampa Bay	_____
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at NY Jets	_____
☐	☐	Minnesota	_____	at San Francisco	_____
☐	☐	New England	_____	at Jacksonville	_____
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Philadelphia	_____
☐	☐	Oakland	_____	at Kansas City	_____
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at New Orleans	_____
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at Baltimore	_____
☐	☐	Washington	_____	at Arizona	_____

Monday, December 8

☐	☐	Carolina	_____	at Dallas	_____

WEEK SIXTEEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Saturday, December 13

☐	☐	Washington	_____	at NY Giants	_____
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at New England	_____

Sunday, December 14

☐	☐	Arizona	_____	at New Orleans	_____
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at St. Louis	_____
☐	☐	Dallas	_____	at Cincinnati	_____
☐	☐	Detroit	_____	at Minnesota	_____
☐	☐	**Green Bay**	_____	at Carolina	_____
☐	☐	Houston	_____	at Baltimore	_____
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Buffalo	_____
☐	☐	Kansas City	_____	at San Diego	_____
☐	☐	Miami	_____	at Indianapolis	_____
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Atlanta	_____
☐	☐	Seattle	_____	at Oakland	_____
☐	☐	Tampa Bay	_____	at NY Jets	_____

Monday, December 15

☐	☐	Denver	_____	at San Francisco	_____

WEEK SEVENTEEN

My Picks | Game and Final Score | W | L

Saturday, December 20

☐	☐	Buffalo	_____	at **Green Bay**	_____
☐	☐	St. Louis	_____	at Carolina	_____

Sunday, December 21

☐	☐	Atlanta	_____	at Arizona	_____
☐	☐	Baltimore	_____	at Cincinnati	_____
☐	☐	Chicago	_____	at Tampa Bay	_____
☐	☐	Indianapolis	_____	at Minnesota	_____
☐	☐	Jacksonville	_____	at Oakland	_____
☐	☐	New Orleans	_____	at Kansas City	_____
☐	☐	NY Giants	_____	at Dallas	_____
☐	☐	NY Jets	_____	at Detroit	_____
☐	☐	Philadelphia	_____	at Washington	_____
☐	☐	Pittsburgh	_____	at Houston	_____
☐	☐	San Diego	_____	at Denver	_____
☐	☐	San Francisco	_____	at Seattle	_____

Monday, December 22

☐	☐	New England	_____	at Miami	_____

POSTSEASON

Wild-Card Playoffs
Saturday and Sunday, December 27-28, 1997

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday and Sunday, January 3-4, 1998

AFC and NFC Conference Championship
Sunday, January 11, 1998

Super Bowl XXXII, San Diego, CA
Sunday, January 25, 1998

AFC-NFC Pro Bowl, Honolulu, HA
Sunday, February 1, 1998

STRONG GETAWAY

KEY TO PACKER HOPES OF REPEAT

Quarterback Troy Aikman, acknowledged leader of the Dallas Cowboys, escorts the Pokes into Lambeau Field November 23. It will be the Cowboys' first visit to Green Bay since 1989.

It is easier to get to the top than it is to stay there, the fabled Vince Lombardi contended while stockpiling five NFL titles during a seven-year span in the 1960s.

Shakespeare put it another way. Writing in the 16th century, The Bard asserted, "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown..."

The Packers will ascertain the accuracy of these observations—delivered some 400 years apart—at first hand during the 1997 season while striving to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

Lombardi's realistic assessment stemmed from the knowledge that, once a team has reached the NFL's pinnacle in a given season, it inevitably will be the prime target for all of its rivals in the year to follow, the possibility of upsetting the reigning champion being all but irresistible.

And Shakespeare's pithy appraisal obviously alludes to the psychological pressure that presumably devolves upon the wearer of the diadem.

Taking the structure of their schedule into account, it thus would appear important for the Packers to make a strong getaway if they hope to repeat—a start similar to the one they forged last season, launched with three straight victories en route to winning a second consecutive NFC Central Division championship and, eventually, Super Bowl XXXI.

The need for "good early foot" is clear. The Green and Gold will be playing three of their first four games—and four of their first six—in Lambeau Field, where they have been all but invincible over the past four seasons, having won 18 straight contests there over the past two years.

In direct contrast, they will find themselves playing four of their final six games on the road—including three in a row during December, a circumstance which obviously will deprive them of the "cold weather" home field advantage which, in the recent past, they frequently have enjoyed from the scheduling perspective in the year's twelfth month.

Competitively speaking, the Packers have another major incentive to make a brisk getaway: They will be playing five of their first seven games against NFC Central opposition—four of them in succession.

Competitive concerns aside, Green Bay's '97 schedule is punctuated by a historic, season-opening "Monday Night Football" showdown in Lambeau Field on September 1 against the Packers' primordial enemies, the Chicago Bears, and a club-record five appearances on national television.

In addition to the inaugural, which will find them opening a season on "Monday Night Football" in Lambeau Field for the first time in their history, they will make four other showings on national TV:

—At New England October 27 and at Minnesota on December 1, on "Monday Night Football;"

—Against Detroit Sunday night, November 2, on ESPN and against Buffalo Saturday afternoon, December 20, on NBC, both in Lambeau Field.

The Packers' home schedule also will be spiced by a long-awaited visit from the Dallas Cowboys, who make their first Green Bay appearance since 1989 when they check into "Lambeau" Sunday afternoon, November 23. It will follow seven consecutive (regular and postseason) Packers appearances in Texas Stadium since the Pokes last visited Green Bay.

The September 1 inaugural against the Bears will mark the Packers' 153rd encounter with their immemorial rivals in a series which dates back to 1921 and which has seen the principals square off more often than any other two teams in NFL history.

Oddly enough, the antediluvian adversaries will wrap up their annual home-and-home series in the first seven weeks of the season. The rematch, customarily a late-season affair, will find the Packers invading Chicago's Soldier Field Sunday afternoon, October 12.

Between those two contests, the Green and Gold will face three other NFC Central rivals, hosting Minnesota Sunday, September 21 and Tampa Bay Sunday, October 28 and taking on the Detroit Lions in the Pontiac, MI, Silverdome Sunday, September 28.

This span will also include two non-divisional opponents on back-to-back weekends—Philadelphia (away) Sunday, September 7 and Miami (in Lambeau Field) Sunday, September 14.

The Packers will draw their annual bye—Sunday, October 19th—following their Chicago invasion.

When they return to action, they will play five of their last nine games on the road—at New England Monday night, October 27; at Indianapolis Sunday, November 16; at Minnesota Monday night, December 1; at Tampa Bay Sunday, December 7; and at Carolina, which they visit for the first time, Sunday, December 14.

Their final four home games during this stretch will find them hosting Detroit and St. Louis on successive Sundays—November 2 and November 9, Troy Aikman and the Dallas Cowboys Sunday, November 23, and Buffalo in their '97 regular season finale Saturday afternoon, December 20.

1997 PACKER SCHEDULE

(All Wisconsin Times)

		PRE-SEASON	
Sat	**July 26**	**MIAMI**	**5:30**
Thu	**July 31**	**NEW ENGLAND (ESPN)**	**7:00**
Fri	Aug 8	Oakland at Oakland	8:00
Sat	Aug 16	Buffalo at Toronto (NBC)	3:00
Fri	**Aug 22**	**NEW YORK GIANTS at Madison**	**7:00**
		LEAGUE	
Mon	**Sep 1**	**CHICAGO (ABC)**	**8:00**
Sun	Sep 7	Philadelphia at Philadelphia	3:00
Sun	**Sep 14**	**MIAMI**	**12:00**
Sun	**Sep 21**	**MINNESOTA**	**12:00**
Sun	Sep 28	Detroit at Detroit	12:00
Sun	**Oct 5**	**TAMPA BAY**	**12:00**
Sun	Oct 12	Chicago at Chicago	12:00
Sun	Oct 19	Bye	
Mon	Oct 27	New England at Foxboro (ABC)	8:00
Sun	**Nov 2**	**DETROIT (ESPN)**	**7:00**
Sun	**Nov 9**	**ST. LOUIS**	**12:00**
Sun	Nov 16	Indianapolis at Indianapolis	12:00
Sun	**Nov 23**	**DALLAS**	**12:00**
Mon	Dec 1	Minnesota at Minneapolis (ABC)	8:00
Sun	Dec 7	Tampa Bay at Tampa	12:00
Sun	Dec 14	Carolina at Charlotte	3:00
Sat	**Dec 20**	**BUFFALO**	**11:30**

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